

**South Bethany Canal Water Quality Committee**  
**Meetings conducted In-person and Zoom**  
**October 21, 2024**

Committee Members Present: Bob Biciocchi, Chris Carlyle, John Roberts, Pete Trelenberg, Chris Vanuga, Dave Wilson

Excused absence: John Beauregard

Public Members Present: Ray Saunders

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

Minutes from the September 16, 2024, meeting was unanimously approved.

A discussion around the seasonal ongoing routine cleaning resulted in the suggestion that we change to an “as needed” contract term instead of the monthly schedule in place. We will discuss it at a future meeting and include this change in a proposal request process that we will work with the Town Manager to run before the spring season.

The fall cleanup contract with Envirotech has been signed. The final cleanup was recommended for the week of November 18 to allow for the most productive collection of leaves. The committee agreed that the new contract's date flexibility was good.

Further discussion with the Town on Anchor's dredging readiness proposal is on hold due to concerns about Town budget challenges. Also, several other efforts are underway that we should understand relative to the impact on our canals and the need for dredging, such as the DelDOT route 1 study, the Towns stormwater system inventory and assessment, and the Center for Inland Bays (CIB) modeling project. Guidance was that we should be ready to proceed immediately should money and approval be granted for this initial dredging preparation study.

Chair reported on a CIB STAC committee meeting he attended. The meeting discussed finalizing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to update a comprehensive hydrodynamic model for the Indian River and Rehoboth Bays, last done twenty-five years ago, to evaluate flushing concepts and impact on overall water quality and resilience. An RFP will be issued in December.

Unfortunately, Little Assawoman Bay is excluded from the scope, and thus, we won't get any specific insights into our canal system and adjacent waterways. It was suggested that we lobby for including Little Assawoman Bay in the study. A meeting with the project leader from CIB will be scheduled, and report back to the Committee.

The next step in developing a Tidal Flow pilot project is to finalize the proposal from Johns Hopkins University to create a model and technical design of the study. This model would help design the effort's scope and enable the measurement and evaluation of the impact against agreed-upon objectives. It may be eligible for grant money. A follow-up meeting with

the lead from Hopkins is planned and the final proposal will be presented at the next CWQC meeting.

The committee discussed the Route 1 rain gardens, and we provided an inventory to the town. Maintenance has been inconsistent, so they are losing effectiveness. The Town is responsible for areas outside the drain infrastructure, and DelDOT is responsible for repairing and replacing the drains. It was suggested that even small amounts of funding would be helpful to improve rain garden effectiveness. Our liaison has a meeting with the Town Manager and will discuss the next steps, along with getting an update on the Route 1 study, as we still don't have all the information on the scope and timing of their efforts.

A draft proposal was presented for a report on water quality that would be posted on the Town website. It showed color-coded bacteria and dissolved oxygen data at all 11 sites and included information sheets from the University of Delaware. Discussions revolved around the frequency and type of information to include and the supporting educational and interpretive information to include. Our liaison took action to discuss this with the mayor.

During public comment, Ray Saunders expressed several concerns: potential pump noise with the tidal flow pilot that may be used to improve canal circulation, disappointment with routine cleaning efforts and the impact of the monthly canal maintenance contract, observing some foam substance in a particular canal that we will follow up on, are the bulkheads getting routinely inspected and the lack of proper silt fences at several construction sites in town.

The meeting adjourned at 11:42 am.