

**Canal Water Quality Committee Liaison Report
To SBTC Meeting
For April 11, 2025
Submitted by Robert Biciocchi, Liaison**

Since our last December '24 quarterly report on CWQ monthly meetings, the Committee has discussed the state of our Canals' Water Quality measurements caused by the design and structural challenges of the Canal system and its role as a Stormwater catch basin from the surrounding Coastal Highway and other adjacent local roads and properties.

Longstanding challenges with canal water quality remain, and the CWQ Committee continues a consensus recommendation for the new fiscal budget planning:

- Development of a comprehensive **master plan and hydrodynamic model** of projected water quality and levels resulting from a portfolio of prioritized canal projects;
- An emphasis on mitigating **stormwater runoff** at the sources by reconditioning highway rain gardens, completing the check-valve drain controls updates, GIS recording of known infrastructure and gap analysis, and lessons learned review to modify canal clean up and ongoing maintenance;
- Further research on DNREC Grants and Town Funding for Water Quality Town initiatives that can address circulation and sediment build up that are the cause of undesirable algae and shallows in our canal network.

Most recently, the Committee attended a presentation by Solitude, our contractor for algae maintenance on a new hydro-biology water treatment called TryMarine. We have invited the company to present to the CWQ committee in coordination with the Town Manager to sample some canal sites and determine efficacy to treat our conditions. If positive, we will encourage our Town Manager toward a proposal for the budget going forward. This treatment could reduce the need for extensive dredging costs and also help reduce sediment volume creating canal shallows.

The Committee continues our research with potential University of Delaware and Johns Hopkins University developing a hydrodynamic model for our canal system. This plan would be a reference repository for the growing set of new digitized Town information and prior studies, to use by all Engineering firms in determining the optimal order of these highlighted and other potential projects based on their effect and cost/benefit impact.