

**Canal Water Quality Committee Liaison Report
To SBTC Meeting
For June 27, 2025
Submitted by Robert Biciocchi, Liaison**

From our past series of monthly CWQ meetings most recently June 16, the canal data measurements remain relatively constant showing a depletion of oxygen and an imbalance of phosphate in the water. Cooler temps and rain have retarded the emergence of algae blooms so the Committee was able to indicate to the Town Manager that clean up could be 1x pass over the Spring. We did suggest DNREC provide another effort directly over the Summer whenever that could be scheduled.

The Committee is also coordinating support the SAV program to harvest Widgeon grass seeds for redistribution into the greater back bay area.

From the RFI issued for Seasonal Clean Up of the canals we determined to stay the course with Envirotech company for monthly service from August through November and revisit the service requirement again next Spring.

There was a Zoom call on June 4th with Solitude in follow up to the Council direction to the CWQ to determine if a bio-solution treatment for phosphate control could be an option, if approved or even applied in the best case, by DNREC. The idea is to knock down the high phosphate condition that feeds the algae bloom. The Town might consider being a pilot site for this type of treatment in a control area or two. Solitude was researching the manufacturer and DNREC and then get back to CWQ/Town Manager on any options.

The Committee found a DELMARVA grant program for Resiliency/Water Quality that we could develop a submittal for if approved by the Council and I will present that per plan in the June 27 Council meeting for approval to pursue it. The idea might be to help fund the Rain Garden areas and also related water improvement measurement as a paid pilot by this grant.

Longer term the CWQ is interested in working with Council on Water Quality and Canal improvements to the infrastructure that might mitigate the Stormwater collection of the original canal network design as Council discussions progress toward Strategic Projects and Capital Planning.

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.