

Meeting Minutes-CWQC

October 20, 2025

SBTC location

Minutes by Chair Biciocchi taken from Zoom transcript

The meeting opened at 10AM with a quorum in attendance. Not in attendance was Chris Carlyle. Both Pete Trelenberg and Chris Vanuga attended remotely. All other members were present in person.

The new Chair, Robert Biciocchi, made remarks on the transition going forward to having Committee Chairs being required to be sitting Town Council members. Chair Biciocchi expressed gratitude of the 3 years of service that Past Chair, Chris Vanuga, had served.

Comments by the Chair continued covering the upcoming State of the Canals Report that was planned to be presented to Council on October 24 and there was a summary review by the Chair of the content to the Committee. The Committee was encouraged to attend the Workshop as possible and also thanked by Mr Vanuga for their contribution to the Report data.

Other topics covered by the Chair were the lack of success to obtain approval to pursue Water Quality grants offered by DNREC that were determined to not be a fit for the Town by the Mayor. Chair Biciocchi made a point to thank the Committee members who had brought several grant programs to the notice of the Committee and had been presented to the Town Manager and Mayor. Chair Biciocchi and Pete Trelenberg had met with the Town Manager and Public Works director in August about replenishing the Rain Gardens and that work had commenced on restoration of several sites with a plan to address the Community in a phased approach.

There was interest by the Committee in finding out any SAV results wrt to the Widgeon grass harvesting program and also any other water quality data obtained. The topic would be pursued by the Chair.

An update from Solitude, John Phelps, was reported by the Chair to have be able to set up a future meeting with the Water Quality Department of DNREC to

determine if water treatment programs could be piloted within the Canals. The objective was to try to get a small Pilot started in the Spring '26 time frame in a location of South Bethany canal end.

Closing Chair remarks was to let the Committee know that the new Secretary of DNREC would be at the next SCAT dinner and would be presenting to the Attendees.

Dave Wilson of the CWQ Committee updated members on the current water quality data measuring quantity of dissolved oxygen, salinity, and nutrient build up. Dave had provided an extensive analysis as part of the State of the Canals Report. The Committee noted that as a result of the continuous algae harvesting there was an impression that the "bloom" problem has stabilized based on observations. Some wildlife has returned to the canals and appear to be healthy small fish and waterfowl.

The Committee discussion included how to find out more about the greater Bay Area initiatives by DNREC or CIB organizations in terms of plans, engineering procedures, or project approvals. The Committee was agreed that it was important for engineering services be contracted to determine a baseline of measurements of; canal water depths, tidal flow, sedimentation rate, bulkhead heights, and stormwater pipe locations digitally surveyed for use in a Canal Master Plan to determine the infrastructure maintenance needed for our canal network.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.