



Town of Brookhaven Long Island

Mark Lesko, Supervisor

Minutes

Carmans River Technical Advisory Committee
December 1, 2010
Town of Brookhaven

Members Present: Dr. Lee Koppelman, Chair (Center for Public Policy, SUNY SB), Tullio Bertoli (TOB PELM), Steven Colabufo (SCWA), Eva Greguski (TOB PELM), Jeff Kassner (TOB PELM), Andrew Rapiejko (*Prospective Member* - SCDHS), Bill Spitz (DEC), Mary Anne Taylor (CDM), Steve Terracciano (USGS).

Members Absent: Henry Bokuniewicz (SUNY SB School of Marine Science), Chris Schubert (USGS), John Turner (TOB PELM).

Others: Harold Bachmann (MI Civic), Michael Domino (NF Environmental Council), Julie Hargrave (Central PB Commission), Robert Kessler (CSYL), Liz Krolik-Alexander (TOB CD#4), Kevin McAllister (Peconic Baykeeper), Kevin McDonald (Nature Conservancy), John Pavacic (Central PB Commission), Tom Talbot (Middle Island Civic), Dave Thompson (Open Space Preservation Trust), Chic Voorhis (NP&V), Tom Williams (Post Morrow Foundation).

1. General Remarks

- None.

2. Review of Minutes

- Minutes of November 24 meeting reviewed and corrected. Minutes were approved.

3. Committee Reports and Review of Assignments

- **Literature review on nitrogen transformations:** Jeff Kassner said he is waiting for information from Henry Bokuniewicz to complete the review. Mary Anne Taylor and Bill Spitz offered literature as well.
- **Water quality data:** Jeff Kassner is still reviewing the data. Will present next week.
- **Existing population and buildout analysis:** Jeff Kassner will present this information next week – awaiting GIS results. Dr. Koppelman requested 8 ½ x 11 maps for the committee to review when they are ready.

Department of Planning, Environment and Land Management
Tullio Bertoli, Commissioner

Brenda Prusinowski, AICP, Deputy Commissioner

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- **Fish passage and species analysis:** Document was distributed at a prior meeting. **Dr. Koppelman requested the TAC and Study Group review the document and that it also be sent to Chart Guthrie for his review.**
- **Stormwater report:** **Jeff Kassner** distributed an updated preliminary report and indicated better management practices are being followed. Historic aerials of the Longwood Library were reviewed. **Dr. Koppelman** said he knows the area as having a high water table. **Jeff Kassner** said the library was built in 1986/87 though he hasn't seen preconstruction elevations (he will be meeting with the library director this week). He said Middle Country Road acts as a barrier. **Bill Spitz** said the culvert below the road becomes a "dam" to the north and the hydrology should show what is defined by the current conditions. **Dr. Koppelman** asked everyone to look at stormwater mitigation. **Jeff Kassner** is going to look at the library parking lot and the function of the culvert. **Steve Terracciano** said sealcoats can add elements to the surface water body. He will send data to everyone.
- **Living resources inventories:** **Jeff Kassner** distributed **John Turner's** draft of the terrestrial and riparian living resources analysis. He indicated a map would be produced to accompany this. **Eva Greguski** indicated Tim Green from BNL will be coming next week to speak to the TAC about wetlands and ponds.
- **Dr. Koppelman asked Mary Anne Taylor to produce a short summary on her modeling effort.**
- **Dr. Koppelman** asked Chic Voorhis about the status of the county water quality data. It should be released to the Town next week.
- **Dr. Koppelman** asked the committee about a general standard for the Carmans River, specifically, is it an attainable goal. **Andrew Rapiejko** asked if we are looking at average nitrogen in the surface water or groundwater. **Dr. Koppelman** stated both, and a lot of the data shows numbers below 2.5mg/l. **Jeff Kassner** said we need to determine what's coming off the land.
- **Dr. Koppelman** asked about the proposed expansion of core boundaries. **John Pavacic** said the prose will be developed after the map is developed. **Bill Spitz** noted the work assignment may change if the "polygon" changes.
- **Andrew Rapiejko** indicated there are other concerns in addition to nitrogen and we should be mindful of other contaminants.
- **Dr. Koppelman** asked about the environmental loads for the Caithness power plant. **Bill Spitz** said he would investigate their permits. **Andrew Rapiejko** suggested looking at the storage of oil. **Steve Terracciano** said SCDHS was monitoring output at plants – does a report on that exist? **Andrew Rapiejko** said he would look into it.
- **Bill Spitz** discussed Roanoke Sand & Gravel's permit. He said they monitor and report quarterly, though they don't look for nutrients; he stated the wells are clean.
- **Bill Spitz** presented a recently released NYS DEC report on the biological health of the river. **Steve Terracciano** asked if it assesses water quality. **Bill Spitz** replied yes. **Dr. Koppelman** asked the committee to review it for next week.

- **Dr. Koppelman** discussed the trend of increasing nitrogen and asked if the committee should be concerned with natural progression. **Steve Terracciano** noted the difference in water quality relates to the increase in urbanization. **Steve Colabufo** asked if there is a study for us to analyze. **Steve Terracciano** said he will look into national studies. **Mary Anne Taylor** noted we are finding more things because we are looking for more things and detection levels are lower.

4. Public Comment

- **Dave Thompson** informed the committee of a 1990 survey comparing a semi-rural and an urbanized river system (Beaver Dam Creek and a western Suffolk river). The study focused on aquatic invertebrates.
- **Michael Domino** said the flooding issues on Middle Island Road involve homes built during the 1930s and 1940s (not during the low water tables of the 1960s) and water is not found in the basements. He referred to land use plan that calls for library area to become “hub” of Middle Island – he does not agree with land use plan and said the library cesspools don’t function. Asked if the area north of Route 25 is not in the Carmans River watershed, what watershed is it in? **Bill Spitz** said it might be in a groundwater shed of a PWS well or a GSB.
- **Kevin McAllister** asked if the new DEC study on biological health of the river is going on website; **Eva Greguski** said yes. He noted the upward trend of nitrogen; **Jeff Kassner** offered a word of caution on seasonality. **Kevin McAllister** began a general discussion on wastewater concentration and said New Jersey had produced additional information; he will circulate it to the committee.
- **Harold Bachman** asked for clarification on clustered development – should it be closer to the river or further away? **Dr. Koppelman** said development should be kept further away from the river, but clustering has additional environmental benefits.
- **Tom Talbot** said the library has purchased additional acres south of their site, with plans for expansion. The library director will have additional information and building plans.
- **Doug Swesty** said there is some missing information from the fish passage report. **Dr. Koppelman** asked him to provide additional information. He inquired about the Caithness and Grucci facilities and their impact on the river. He also asked if the plan will address the proposed Legacy Village or a casino. **Dr. Koppelman** said it would address proposed projects.
- **Chic Voorhis** said Caithness did a detailed review for their original facility, and any expansion would have to undergo the same. He also noted NP&V prepared maps and drainage information for the library. **Dr. Koppelman** asked if there should be some mitigation; **Chic Voorhis** said there should be an attempt to intercept stormwater from accumulating at the base. He also said there is good science to suggest protecting the river in “no-build” zones along the 0-2 and 2-5 year bands. Finally, he noted we have rehashed some topics and we need to look at an overall nitrogen budget for the watershed. He referred to his November 10

paper. Also suggested Walter Hilbert from SCDHS speaks to the committee about STPs.

5. Schedule next meeting

- Next meeting is scheduled for December 8 at 9AM in the OLD PELM CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR.

6. Adjourn

Prepared by Eva Greguski, TOB, PELM