



Town of Brookhaven Long Island

Mark Lesko, Supervisor

Minutes

Carmans River Technical Advisory Committee
October 27, 2010
Town of Brookhaven

Members Present: Dr. Lee Koppelman, Chair (Center for Public Policy, SUNY SB), Tullio Bertoli (TOB PELM), Henry Bokuniewicz (SUNY SB School of Marine Science), Eva Greguski (TOB PELM), Jeff Kassner (TOB PELM), Andrew Rapiejko (*Prospective Member* - SCDHS), Chris Schubert (USGS), Mary Anne Taylor (CDM), John Turner (TOB PELM).

Members Absent: Steve Terracciano (USGS).

Others: Karen Blumer (Open Space Preservation Trust), Julie Hargrave (Central PB Commission), Mary Ann Johnston (ABCO), Robert Kessler (CSYL), Liz Krolik-Alexander (TOB CD#4), Kevin McAllister (Peconic Baykeeper), Johan McConnell (SYCA), Michael Madigan (Open Space Council), Dan Morris (Open Space Council), John Pavacic (Central PB Commission), Don Seubert (ABCO), Bill Spitz (DEC), Jim Tripp (Carmans River Partnership), Chic Voorhis (NP&V), Tom Williams (Post Morrow Foundation).

1. Introductions

2. Review of Minutes

- Minutes of October 22 meeting reviewed and corrected. Minutes were approved.

3. Committee Reports and Review of Assignments

- **Andrew Rapiejko** requested a letter be sent to his superior because of the significant time commitment to this project. **Eva Greguski will request a letter from Supervisor Lesko be sent to Dr. James Tomarken, Commissioner.**
- **Henry Bokuniewicz** distributed a summary of ideas for recommendations to the Study Group. He suggests looking at variations in wet and dry boundaries, the denitrification process, and levels of phosphates and phosphorus. He also acknowledged we should consider traces of septic inputs, such as Acesultane-K.

Brenda Prusinowski, AICP, Deputy Commissioner

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- **Dr. Koppelman** asked how can we define a way to gather additional data. **Andrew Rapiejko** suggested looking at existing groundwater data, such as the larger water quality data gathered from private wells south of BNL. Says nitrogen data exists from those studies. MTBE was detected in the river, most likely traced to a gas station on William Floyd Parkway mitigated. VOCs were detected in groundwater but not surface water. The BNL and Precision Concepts plumes were also discussed. Finally, it was stated that private residential wells provide good data on shallow groundwater, which is more likely to get into the river. **It was requested that Jeff Kassner's staff contribute their time to gather data if Andrew's time is limited.**
- **Chris Schubert** informed the committee of work in Nassau County that is bringing water quality data into GIS to give a more comprehensive 3-D look at data. It is currently being applied to New York State Superfund sites. **Henry Bokuniewicz** added that provides a good framework for analysis.
- **Jeff Kassner** suggested that we identify key well sites quickly and use existing SCDHS data. **Chris Schubert is going to work with Andrew Rapiejko and Jeff Kassner to prioritize data.** **Andrew Rapiejko** asked which analytes we should be concerned with – the committee responded with all of them.
- **Dr. Koppelman** raised the question of what has to be done to take a comprehensive approach as we move forward past the 90 day plan deadline. He stressed the needs to get data immediately to meet the 90 day outline. **Jeff Kassner** presented a map of outfall locations. **Chris Schubert** suggested continuous monitoring needs. **Dr. Koppelman asked him to provide a summary to the committee.**
- **Steve Terracciano** shared a link with the committee of a recently published study on the effects of urbanization of stream ecosystems. This link will also be placed on the Town website. <http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/urban/>
- A discussion about the previously discussed O'Malley master's thesis was started. **Andrew Rapiejko** asked which lab analyzed the samples. He noticed that the samples were frozen and analyzed in Syracuse. He is going to follow up on freezing samples and the affect on the concentration of nitrates. **Chris Schubert was asked to have a staff member analyze the document and report back next week.**
- **Dr. Koppelman** asked the committee to design a package that gives comprehensive analysis and future work for a continuing basis with price tags.
- **Jeff Kassner** mentioned a land cover analysis that focuses on vegetative types. **Jeff will distribute more information.** **Chris Schubert** said there is some data published but there are concerns about methodology.
- **Dr. Koppelman asked the committee to keep three items in mind as they analyze data and start to frame recommendations:**
 - **What areas of research are to be considered?**
 - **What is the timeframe of each recommendation?**
 - **What is the cost for each recommendation?**
- **John Turner** presented a vacant lands map and gave an explanation of categories. Also said PELM is considering identifying areas with available sanitary credits to direct development to. **Dr. Koppelman** noted that is a possible

area of conflict, as the SCDHS has a different approach to sanitary credits and uses a different legal standard.

4. Public Comment

- **Karen Blumer** asked if a biologist is necessary to add to the technical committee, as items like invertebrate species are important to the health of the river. **Dr. Koppelman** stated that John Turner will be conducting a flora and fauna study and that there are members of the Study Group, such as Bill Spitz from the DEC, who have access to various aspects of research. **Karen** continued, suggesting that the committee keep its focus beyond the river to the watershed boundaries and asked for a timeline of the boundary expansion. **Dr. Koppelman** stated that it the science will determine the boundaries. **Mary Anne Taylor** stated that the boundaries may change very slightly laterally, as they butt up against other stream flows.
- **Kevin McAllister** asked that the data study be comprehensive, and that the lag time on seepage over years be considered. He also emphasized the need to establish groundwater standards.
- **Johan McConnell** suggested looking at test wells throughout the watershed and not just near the BNL site. **Andrew Rapiejko** stated there are additional wells and we can consider data from county wells as well.
- **Mary Ann Johnston** asked for a clarification of the committee's charge and asked what the difference between the Technical Committee and the Study Group is. **Dr. Koppelman** said that the Technical Committee *advises* the Study Group and provides technical recommendations.
- **Dan Morris** suggested several corrections to vacant lands map. **John Turner** indicated that it will be corrected. **Eva Greguski** will add it to the website once it is corrected.
- **Karen Blumer** asked if the lines broaden does the Open Space Committee reconvene. **John Turner** stated that the committee would re-consider lands located within whatever boundaries are established.

5. Schedule next meeting

- Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 3 at 9AM in the WORK SESSION ROOM, THIRD FLOOR.

6. Adjourn

Prepared by Eva Greguski, TOB, PELM