

**Mill Brook Watershed Study**  
**Q & A Responses November 3, 2014**

**Present at Town Hall:**

Jen Rand Town Administrator, Committee members: Chuck Hodgkinson, Prudy Burt, Selena Roman, Tim Boland

Heidi Clark – Woods Hole Group; Rob Culbert

**Participants via Telephone:**

Sue Hruby - Committee member.

Neal Price – Horsley & Whitten Group; Carl Nielsen – ESS Group

**Clarifications:**

1. The Town will open all proposals on Thursday, November 13 @ 4:00 PM at the West Tisbury Town Hall—second floor conference room.
2. Page 4 Section IV. B. 3 & 4: Due to the time sensitivity for proper sample collection, it will be the responsibility of the Consultant to sub-contract as necessary with a qualified on-island person or organization to collect samples. Sample collection equipment and packaging/shipping materials will be provided by the consultant. All sample testing is to be performed by a Commonwealth of Massachusetts certified laboratory.

**Questions:**

1. Can the Committee elaborate on the intent of the study—there are some very detailed sections (sampling procedures) and some sections that are not as detailed. Please see the attached Watershed Study purpose statement.
2. Page 5 # 4: Shall we monitor all rain fall events for a year (could be 20 storms) and collect samples for every storm? Yes. Please plan on monitoring all rainfall as specified on page 5 # 4.
3. Page 5 # 4: The Polly Hill Arboretum is collecting all rainfall with a Davis Rain Gauge (see enclosed photo). The collection cups within the unit fill to capacity and pour out the base of the unit when filled and in doing so, the volume is measured, the water flows down and out the base of the unit. The site that records the data on-line is: <http://www.wunderground.com/personal-weather-station/dashboard?ID=KMAWESTT4> The measurement of the pH does not have to be accessed directly from the machine. It could be worked out that a non-reactive container be mounted securely underneath the Davis Unit, made

detachable, and the accumulated, captured water be used for testing. It is the consultant's responsibility to analyze pH and NO3.

4. Page 5 # 7: What is meant by morphometric investigation? Is this only for the Mill Brook? Please clarify. We are seeking an assessment of the physical characteristics of the Mill Brook—including the stream bed.

Vegetation Study: Do we want wetland and upland vegetation analyzed in the field or, shall we use existing GIS mapping of the data and augment it with the field work? Please use existing GIS mapping data. We ask that you augment this information based upon your field observations.

5. Page 5 # 5: Shall we just identify the various diversions and withdrawals along the Mill Brook, and also measure the water flow in each? Yes. Identify the diversions and withdrawals you find along the Mill Brook and measure the amounts of water being diverted or withdrawn. The Committee can provide insight into known diversions and withdrawals to the successful respondent.

6. Page 6 # 9: Is this for the other ponds? Please identify them: Yes. Fishers, Crocker, Priester's, Albert's Ponds. Use the existing data for the Mill Pond.

7. Page 6 # 10: Are we looking for an opinion on the watershed? No, we are not asking an opinion. We are asking for you to identify any watershed problems or issues you observe during your field work.

8. Page 6 VI 3.: Can the reports be submitted on CD's – instead of paper? Yes.

9. Page 4 iii: Please elaborate on total solids versus suspended solids? We understand that total suspended solids (tss) are a subset of total solids. Previous studies have measured total suspended solids. We would like your data to complement existing data – see appendix # 2, # 4 Bill Wilcox studies.

Regarding Organophosphates...are we looking for evidence of pesticides? If so, it may be more efficient to ask us to search for the presence of this category of compounds rather than specifying which ones. There are several agricultural areas near or adjacent to the Mill Brook. Please conduct a broad, categorical screen for the presence of herbicides, pesticides, fungicides etc.

10. Page 4 A 1. Can the Committee provide all the data listed rather than asking the firm to find it? Please review the 26 items in the appendix that is available on the Mill Brook Watershed Management Planning Committee's page on the Town's website. Let us know what data you would like to be more accessible and we will do our best to provide it.

11. Is there a cap on the Town's budget? The Town has \$30,000 for the study. Also, please refer to page 6 VI. 1.

12. Will the Town secure access permission on private property? We will need to carry in a boat of some sort for the pond research. Yes, the Town will secure permission. The successful respondent shall supply the person's name, date and estimated times for sampling on private property so we can inform the respective property owners.
13. On-island staff: Can we recommend some people? We will work with the successful respondent and suggest they provide the list of on-island staff they would like to use so the committee can provide advice accordingly.

**MILL BROOK WATERSHED STUDY PURPOSE STATEMENT**  
**FINAL 9/8/14**

The Mill Brook Watershed Study will collect the necessary data to establish a baseline reading for determining the water quality and general health of the Mill Brook, the Mill Brook Watershed, including all streams and ponds, the watershed ecosystem, and their impacts on the Tisbury Great Pond. The data will become the basis for drafting a Mill Brook Watershed Management Plan. The study will help establish the criteria and standards for an on-going, Town-sponsored watershed monitoring and evaluation program that measures progress against established watershed management goals.

The following are some examples, including but not limited to, the types of data, methods and evaluations that will be obtained from the study:

- On-going rainfall measurement and nutrient/chemical content analysis.
- Specific data collection locations will be strategically established throughout the watershed to:
  - Monitor a consistent set of nutrient and chemical content analyses for each water sample taken.
  - Monitor water flow data – volume and velocity.
  - Monitor the impacts of the ponds on the Mill Brook's water quality, flow, temperature and ecosystem—including bathymetric data.
  - Monitor water source inputs into the watershed and brook.
  - Monitor water source diversions and withdrawals from the watershed and brook.
  - Monitor and identify the summer in-season impacts, off-season impacts and post weather event impacts on the watershed.
  - Monitor existing and potential sources and impacts that threaten the health of the watershed.



