

Mill Brook Watershed Management Planning Committee

Minutes of 4/24/17 meeting

Present: Cindy Mitchell, Tim Boland, Prudy Burt, Kristen Fauteux and Chuck Hodgkinson.

Absent: Selena Roman, Rez Williams and Nancy Huntington.

Also present: Bill Wilcox, Kent Healy.

An invoice in the amount of \$1,475.36 from Greg Whitmore for his work identifying all specimens collected by BiodiversityWorks to species level was approved by the committee for payment, all in favor.

The minutes of 3/27/17 and 4/10/17 were approved without correction, all in favor.

Kent Healy shared some thoughts with the committee about the methodology used by ESS Group to measure water flow. He expressed concerns about the margin of error inherent in their methodology, namely, the low number of discharge readings used to calibrate the data from their water level loggers. Prudy reiterated that from the beginning of this study, the main reason that this committee agreed to the methodology proposed by ESS Group was that Kent had said that he would be sharing his own water flow data with the committee, for comparison and also to augment any deficiencies. During the summer of 2016, Kent had indicated to the committee, after preliminary analysis of the ESS Group data versus his own, that they appeared to be within the same margin of error. Prudy said that it would be helpful at this point for Kent to get his own data into a format to which he could compare and contrast the ESS Group data. Kent indicated that he would try to do that.

The committee discussed Greg Whitmore's report and spreadsheet data of the Mill Brook invertebrate collection. There appeared to be some confusion as to whether Greg identified species as to location; Kristen didn't think Greg had included all four excel spreadsheets outlined in his narrative and so thought that he had not identified where which species had been found. Prudy was certain that Greg had identified all species as to location and urged all to read

Greg's report thoroughly before our next meeting on May 8. In numerous places in his report, Greg clearly explains how the water temperature, dissolved oxygen and composition of the stream bottom is affected by the man made impoundments and how this affects the species composition found in Mill Brook.

The committee continued its review of Draft #6 of the report.

Next meetings will be on May 8 and 22, 5 p.m.

Submitted by Prudy Burt