

Mill Brook Watershed Management Planning Committee  
Minutes for 11/28/16 meeting

Present: Cindy Mitchell, Selena Roman, Chuck Hodgkinson, Kristen Fauteux, Prudy Burt, Rez Williams.

Absent: Nancy Huntington, Tim Boland

Also present: Bill Wilcox, Kent Healy, Bill Chaisson (MV Times)

Meeting called to order at 5 p.m.

Chuck presented answers from ESS Group to questions we had from our last meeting in regards to phosphorus sampling results and methodology. After some discussion, members present concluded that greater clarity would result from having Bill Wilcox speaking directly with Carl Nielsen of ESS Group; a vote was taken approving Bill contacting Carl with all in favor. Chuck will send an email to Carl and Bill introducing them to each other and letting Carl know that the committee gave their permission for Bill access to speak with Carl.

Kristen gave an update of her conversation with Simon Athearn of Morning Glory Farm re irrigation water withdrawals at the Greene/Hickie fields abutting Mill Brook. While the Hickie family retains ownership of the land, there exists an agricultural preservation restriction (APR) on the land which is co-held by the MV Land Bank and the state. Morning Glory Farm leases the land. Simon provided Kristen with an estimate of how much water was pumped from Mill Brook this summer. Bill and Kent thought that additional information was needed in regards to the number of times each field was irrigated as the total number estimated (393,120 gallons) seemed low for the time period of irrigation this summer (mid July through mid September). Kristen will email her correspondence with Simon to committee members, Bill and Kent. Kristen will be back in touch with Simon with additional questions after Bill and Kent have had time to review Simon's estimates of water use for the three different fields within this 8.5 acre lease. There was discussion about the best method to measure withdrawals here, perhaps a flow meter at the pump itself.

Cindy wanted to reiterate that withdrawal/diversion data is part of our baseline assessment of the Mill Brook watershed. All concurred.

Prudy gave a brief update on her conversation with Paul Goldstein, an entomologist who has conducted research on the Vineyard for many years. The intent of the conversation was to see if Paul might be willing to look at the invertebrate samples currently stored in town hall and identify them beyond family- in some cases, BiodiversityWorks volunteers were only able to identify specimens to family- as previously noted, some differ within family in terms of their tolerance to pollution. Paul spends most of his time in Washington D.C., but might be back

over the next holiday. In the meantime, Prudy will go to town hall and take photos of existing invertebrate samples and send to Paul to give an idea of how much work this might be.

The minutes of the 11/14/16 meeting were approved without correction, all in favor with Rez abstaining due to his absence at that meeting.

Next meeting will be on 12/12/16, 5 p.m. at the WT library.

Cindy suggested that at our next meeting, we rough out a timeline for remaining work; she will come with some ideas to get us started.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Submitted by Prudy Burt