

Mill Brook Watershed Management Planning Committee

Minutes of 11/14/16 meeting

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

Absent: Nancy Huntington, Rez Williams, Tim Boland

Also Present: Bill Wilcox, Kent Healy

Meeting started at 5 p.m.

ESS Group invoice #46372 in the amount of \$1,135.91 was approved for payment, motion by Kristen, second by Cindy. All in favor but for one abstention (Prudy).

Kristen reviewed for the committee comments and questions that Nick Wildman, priority projects manager at Ma. Division of Ecological Restoration (DER), had on ESS Group and BiodiversityWorks data- Nick and his colleague, Cindy Delpapa, riverways program manager, agreed to review the data at no cost to the town. Kristen will circulate final comments to committee members but a few are as follows: It appears that phosphorus samples were not field filtered - if not field filtered within 15 minutes, this would be outside accepted procedures; they noted that pH in stream seemed quite low and asked about methodology used- ESS Group's results were lower than those found by BiodiversityWorks survey; the relative dearth of discharge readings makes accurate creation of rating curve questionable- more discharge readings are needed; they noted that BiodiversityWorks did not identify macroinvertebrates past family- some differ within family in terms of their tolerance to pollution.

Prudy and Kristen suggested that we ask someone with greater experience to look at the invertebrate samples stored in town hall since the completion of the field work to see if they can identify them past family. Prudy said that if the committee concurred, she would contact Paul Goldstein, an entomologist who frequently works on the island, about this. All concurred.

Bill Wilcox reviewed with the committee some data analysis he had done of the Mill Brook water flow data. Water flow does diminish between Priester's Pond and Scotchman's Bridge Lane and more again between Scotchman's Bridge Lane and the outlet at Mill Pond. The committee discussed known diversions and withdrawals in that section of Mill Brook, including the Whiting diversion canal just south of Scotchman's Bridge Lane. Also discussed was the unknown quantity of water withdrawn at the Greene/Hickie fields. This property is owned by the MV Land Bank and leased by Morning Glory Farm, which withdraws water from Mill Brook to irrigate sweet corn and pumpkins grown here. Cindy said that it was well within the purview of the committee's work to find out more about this withdrawal. Kristen will speak with the Land Bank first and then Morning Glory Farm as lessee to ask them to quantify this withdrawal. Prudy will get list of land owners who divert or withdraw water from Mill Brook in this section of Mill Brook.

Chuck left the meeting at 5:45

New business: Prudy and Selena offered to put together an informational display of the Mill Brook watershed for the West Tisbury library, summarizing what we've learned in the last two years. This is envisioned to be mostly a visual display with very little text- including but not limited to photos of the study work that happened, maps of the area, Kent's 3D model of the watershed, photos of the various sampling sites, graphs of the water temperature data and locations of those loggers. The library indicated that this display could stay up for a couple of months, but it had to go downstairs in the library. The hope is that it could be upstairs in the main lobby for a week or two, then move downstairs for the duration, so that more people could see it. Members present were enthusiastic about this.

Minutes of the 10/24/16 meeting were approved as presented, all in favor except for Cindy who abstained due to her absence at that meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15

Submitted by Prudy Burt