

Mill Brook Watershed Management Planning Committee

Minutes of 10/24/16 meeting

Present: Chuck Hodgkinson, Tim Boland, Kristen Fauteux, Selena Roman, Prudy Burt.

Also present: Bill Wilcox, Kent Healy.

Absent: Nancy Huntington, Cindy Mitchell, Rez Williams

Called to order at 5:04 p.m.

The committee discussed the need to make sure that data from the most recent download by Sheri Caseau of the six loggers be included in ESS Group's final report at no additional cost to the committee as the State Road logger failure in 2015 happened on their watch. Selena reported that she spoke with Sheri Caseau and confirmed that ESS Group received that final data.

Selena made a motion, seconded by Tim Boland, that ESS Group invoice #46229 in the amount of \$1,171 be paid, all in favor.

The committee discussed a recommendation by Bill Wilcox at our last meeting on 9/24/16 to have someone more experienced in fresh water streams review the ESS Group and BiodiversityWorks data. Bill offered that he had spoken with Roland Samimy of the Massachusetts Estuaries Project and that they offered to review the data. This offer was made with the implication that they would give us input on what to do next for which they would hope to get hired. The committee felt that to date, we have been consistent in not seeking opinions or recommendations and that we wanted to continue in that way. Additionally, committee members present recalled the manner in which MEP tried to co-opt the Mill Brook watershed study RFP in 2015, re name it a 'nitrogen attenuation study' and apply for 604B funding, this, after the study had already been awarded and was in the field. Prudy reminded committee members that it was always the intention to just get straight data in this portion of the watershed study and that it was anticipated from the beginning of this process that if needed, data review would be done under a separate request for proposals. She spoke with Neil Price, senior

hydrologist and hydrogeologist at Horsley Witten, who indicated that their firm could review the data (ESS Group and BiodiversityWorks) and identify any data gaps for approximately \$5,000. He was clear that a more formal proposal and cost could be submitted when the committee decided exactly what the scope of work/review would be. Kristen suggested that Nick Wildman at Division of Ecological Restoration might be a resource. Members present voted to have Kristen contact Nick and see if their office would be willing to review the data.

Chuck suggested the \$1,700 remaining uncommitted from the RFP be used to print up hard copies of the committee's report to the selectmen. The committee took no action on this.

Prudy asked Bill if his assessment of ESS Group data should be modified to reflect the fact that we do now have flow data on Indian Hill Brook, so might be able to establish nutrient loading from that watershed into Mill Brook. Bill agreed.

The minutes of the 9/24/16 meeting were approved with one correction. It was noted for the record that in answer to Selena's question in the 9/24/16 minutes re the list of invertebrates in the BiodiversityWorks report, Kristen affirmed that this list is reflective of exactly what BiodiversityWorks found in Mill Brook.

New Business: Prudy and Selena offered to put together a display of the Mill Brook watershed at the WT library. This would include the relief map of the watershed Kent Healy built, maps of the watershed showing the sampling locations on Mill Brook by Ma. Fisheries and Wildlife, ESS Group, BiodiversityWorks and Sea Run Brook Trout Coalition, as well as photos of those locations on the brook. Also, photos of the various land uses in the watershed- agricultural, forestry, recreation, housing density both present and future buildout. Prudy shared some maps that Chris Seidel, cartographer at MVC did for the conservation commission several years ago when they were working on their open space plan to give an idea of how we can illustrate these things using GIS data layers. Prudy and Selena will rough out some ideas for review at our next meeting on November 14, 2016.

Bill Wilcox shared some information about water flow on Mill Brook. He worked with the ESS Group water flow data to come up with some estimates of how water flow decreases as it flows downstream, especially between State Road in North Tisbury and the outlet at Mill Pond. In this stretch of Mill Brook, there are several diversions and areas of withdrawal.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Submitted by Prudy Burt