

Minutes of 9/26/16 meeting

Mill Brook Watershed Management Planning Committee

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

Absent: Tim Boland, Nancy Huntington

Also Present: Bill Wilcox, Kent Healy

The committee needs to decide whether to have the six water level and temperature loggers deployed in Mill Brook by ESS Group programmed to over write existing data. Logger memory is currently at 80% capacity. It was agreed to let the loggers run out their battery life.

ESS Group has been having trouble getting the data from Sheri Caseau at Martha's Vineyard Commission of the latest download of the six loggers. Selena will follow up with Sheri to see what the problem is.

Bill Wilcox shared with the committee a draft of his comments/observations of the ESS Group water quality and water flow data. Chuck referred back to the BiodiversityWorks report and wondered how the two might be compared.

Prudy pointed out that ESS Group and BiodiversityWorks sampled in different locations in the brook. Selena asked how the invertebrate species list in the BiodiversityWorks report was generated- was it a reference list from some other source/area, or was it actually what was found in Mill Brook during the sampling.

Bill said that the storm water samples taken by Sheri Caseau might have spent the weekend outside the lab as they might not have been mailed in time via Federal Express. If this is the case, this would affect the results for those samples.

Bill wondered if there might be some geological sediments/soils in the stream such as greensand which might be contributing to the elevated phosphorus levels found in some of the samples. Prudy suggested that nutrient sources should also include contributions from geese and swans; several of the impoundments along Mill Brook have mowed areas down to the edge of the pond which creates ideal grazing and lounging areas for these waterfowl to gather and congregate in large numbers.

Prudy asked Bill about how high water temperatures and the resulting low dissolved oxygen (observed at all sampling points during the late July, 2015 sampling round) affect nutrient cycling and anoxic events. Bill agreed that future recommendations should include getting continuously recorded data on dissolved oxygen. During this study, dissolved oxygen was only recorded during the six water sampling grabs at various times of the day. Dissolved oxygen levels change throughout the day as water temperatures rise and fall.

There was a brief discussion of how to best illustrate present and future buildout conditions and how this could effect water quality. Prudy reported that Chris Seidel, MV Commission cartographer, had put together some GIS maps for conservation commission during work on an open space plan update which illustrate this fairly clearly; she will bring these to the next meeting.

Bill suggested that the committee might want to consider having someone more experienced in stream habitats such as this review the data, including the BiodiversityWorks report, in order to have a better understanding of what all this data means for Mill Brook. This person might help us identify data gaps and decide whether/how to proceed with the next level of sampling.

The minutes of 8/29/16 were approved unanimously.

Chuck will remove the draft final report outline from the town website.

Our next meeting will be on October 24 at 5 p.m.

Minutes taken by Prudy Burt

