

Minutes of 8/29/16 meeting

Mill Brook Watershed Management Planning committee

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

Absent: Nancy Huntington, Rez Williams

Also present: Bill Wilcox, Carl Nielsen- ESS Group

Meeting was called to order at 5 p.m.

Bill Wilcox lent his observations on the ESS Group data resulting from the water quality sampling in 2015 and water level and water temperature data from the six continuous data loggers installed in Mill Brook. Bill said that the lab accuracy looks good, with the blind duplicates nearly matching test results. Among items he noted were: He confirmed with Tim the number of recorded rain events in 2015 as the number reported seemed a bit low. Total nitrogen is the sum of TKN and nitrate which is a very low concentration because dissolved inorganic nitrogen forms are quickly picked up and incorporated into plant tissue; it will be helpful to develop a rainfall versus discharge curve to get an idea of the time of concentration to show how water/rainfall flows down the stream from which portion of which subwatershed of Mill Brook; that the existing nitrogen and flow data be translated to see if it matches Mass. Estuaries Project data for Tisbury Great Pond report; and that stormwater impacts seem to be concentrated at Site 3, the unnamed tributary above Priester's Pond. Prudy indicated that the conservation commission has now successfully gotten Seven Gates/Ralph Packer to fence the cows out of that unnamed tributary.

Carl Nielsen, ESS Group, suggested that the six loggers (still recording) could do with fewer readings, perhaps be reset to 4X a day, to save on battery life. Prudy asked whether the resulting data would be meaningful- it was her understanding that in a small stream like Mill Brook, if the loggers were set for such long intervals, the likelihood is that we would miss any water level changes from rain/storm events. Sheri Casseau at MVC is supposed to do another download from the loggers. The hope is that downloading all the loggers together this time will make up

for the logger failure at Site 4 (North Tisbury bridge) in 2015. Without the data from that logger, we have no way to compare water flows between data logger points and so no way of quantifying water withdrawals and diversions (Greene/Hickie fields and diversions below Scotchman's Bridge Lane), one of the main goals of the study.

Cindy asked how the biological assessment from BiodiversityWorks compares with this ESS Group data. There was a short discussion about how to compare data logger and sampling sites and results from the two studies side by side, eg. illustrate how sites which suffer from road runoff/pollution impacts and/or higher water temperatures suffer from decreased water quality and decreased numbers of high quality invertebrates and biological diversity. Cindy also mentioned a tool she uses in her healthcare work, something called 'dashboard', which could be used to let the data tell the story.

At this point, Carl and Chuck had to leave to catch the ferry.

The minutes of 8/8/16 were approved with the correction that Selena was present, all in favor.

Remaining committee members (Selena, Kristen, Tim, Cindy and Prudy) once again approved the addition of the stream/pond combination idea first presented by Steve Hurley, state fisheries biologist, and reiterated by Brendan O'Neill, executive director of Vineyard Conservation Society, be added to the list of options outlined in the draft report outline dated 6/13/16. Cindy suggested that it be added to the end of #16. All in favor. Prudy will communicate with Chuck to add this option to the draft.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Submitted 9/25/16

Prudy Burt