

DRAFT
Sasco Brook Pollution Abatement Committee Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2013

Attendees:

Alicia Mozian, Westport Conservation Director
Tom Steinke, Fairfield Conservation Director
Carol Donzella, USDA NRCS
Chris Malik, CT DEEP
Geoff Steadman, Consultant
Carla Nelson, Fairfield County Hunt Club
Pete Fraboni, Earthplace Harbor Watch
Dick Harris, Earthplace Harbor Watch

1. Review of February 7, 2013 meeting minutes

Two items were noted: Item 2, third paragraph, first sentence: Todd's Way should be changed to read *Bulkley South*, and second sentence: Dick's needs should be changed to read *more testing in the piping*. Motion to accept with corrections – 5.0, Geoff Steadman abstained.

2. Memorandum of Agreement Display

Geoff passed around samples of the completed display for final review; one small detail needs to be addressed before it goes to final print. In total, 14 displays will be mounted, one will not. Once done, Geoff will drop them off to Alicia where members can pick them up for distribution.

3. Water Quality Testing Results taken by Harbor Watch

Dick distributed a map showing the area where his crew is taking samples behind the Stop and Shop shopping center, and other areas of concern. It was discovered that the drain on Hunter's property on Bulkley Ave South is not in good shape and showing high counts of bacteria. A proposal is being drafted to look at the estuary and find the best ways to address bacterial pollution. Old sites will be revisited and matched up to the watershed-based plan. Tim Bridges of EPA will be contracted to do the pharmaceutical testing. Modifications to the *Quality Assurance Plan* are being considered. Site 5D is showing improvements with counts now in the hundreds, compared with the thousands as previously recorded. Sites 7D has two pipes (Todd's Way and in front of Stop and Shop); site 6D has 1 pipe; site 2D has a 4-foot discharge pipe and the water coming out of it has an unusual color which needs to be identified, and site 1D is at the base of the dam.

DPW Director, Steve Edwards and Health District Director, Mark Cooper will be invited to the next meeting to discuss issues found at the former Tiger Bowl Restaurant site, and the sanitary sewer line in Fairfield. High counts of bacteria are being found in the Toys 'R Us area. Dye testing between July and September is recommended to locate possible sources of pollution.

4. Grant Update

Dick reported that Harbor Watch applied for a Long Island Sound Future Fund grant for water quality testing. Alicia mentioned that Mark Cooper submitted an application for an Ag Viability grant for DNA testing. Chris reported that 319 funds are uncertain at this time, however, if anyone has a project in mind to let him know.

5. Next Steps in furthering the goals of the plan

a/b. 2013 outreach efforts – Potential Staples Intern projects

Alicia reported that she will have an Intern joining her staff from May 20 to June 14. This person will be working 5 hrs/day 5 days/week. The members were asked for suggestions on how the Intern can help with the outreach efforts. Following up on the survey; attending upcoming events; composing news articles; building a database of emails to send out timely information, were suggested. Everyone was asked to review the watershed-based plan for outreach opportunities for the Intern.

c/d. Annual manure management workshop – Planning for outreach at annual horse show outreach efforts

Carla reported that she will be contacting the Fairfield Bridle Trails Association for suggestions on times/days that would help increase attendance. Piggy-backing on another event was suggested – possibly the upcoming horse shows.

6. Other Business

Carla mentioned that on April 12, 2013, 50 college students will be touring the Fairfield County Hunt Club to learn more about their best management practices. This is part of a statewide tour put on by UConn and the American Horse Council. They will also be visiting the Governor's Horse Guard and Candlewood. Carla and Stuart will be giving the tour. Carla provided the dates for the two upcoming horse shows: June 18-22 and August 15-18.

Alicia mentioned the upcoming town-wide Beautification Day on April 20th and was looking for a site within the Sasco Brook Watershed in Westport to clean up. No town-owned sites were identified.

Grant funds are needed for signage were discussed. Possible sources included Newman's Own, CL&P, Southport Conservancy and Fairfield County Community Foundation. Geoff and the new Intern will contact them to see what funding might be available.

Dick announced the annual Boat Trips are being planned for April 16, 24 and May 7, 16, and 22. The boats are filling fast so contact him for reservations. Max. 15 people per boat trip.

The next meeting has been scheduled for **Wednesday, May 23, 2013**, at 10:00 AM, at Earthplace.