

MINUTES
SASCO BROOK POLLUTION ABATEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2012

Attendance:

Alicia Mozian, Conservation Director.
Geoff Steadman, Consultant
Mark Cooper, Westport/Weston Health District Director (WWHD)
Chris Malik, CT DEEP
Tom Steinke, Fairfield Conservation Director
Carla Nelson, Fairfield County Hunt Club (FCHC)
Dick Harris, HarborWatch/RiverWatch (HW/RW)
Pete Fraboni, HW/RW
Stuart Sachs, LA
Guest: Roman Mrozinski, Southwest Conservation District SWCD

1. Review of December 9, 2011 meeting minutes:

Minutes were approved as written:

Nelson: Motion to approve Second Steadman Vote: 9:0:0

2. Review of 2012 meeting calendar – approved as submitted but is subject to change.

3. Discussion and planning for spring workshop on manure management with Roman Mrozinski of the Southwest Conservation District

Mr. Mrozinski of the SWCD gave an over-view of the services provided to the 43 communities within their region such as site plan review, S&E Control Plan reviews, on-site assistance to property owners and farmers. They serve under DEEP but are co-located with NRCS and the Farm Service Bureau. They are not a regulatory agency but only there to help.

Mr. Mrozinski explained that the District had received a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant for 2 year equine management program to conduct educational outreach and technical assistance for eligible horse operations for a wide variety of stables. The SWCD would perform an assessment and evaluation and make recommendations for improved stormwater management efforts like roof management, composting capabilities, provide source connections to off-site manure collection spots. Funding sources would be identified but participation would be on a voluntary basis. It would be a 75/25 cost share

To this end, he is hoping to conduct an educational workshop at the Hunt Club that will serve as outreach for this area. He would invite all the coastal communities within the 43 District towns. An inventory of the horse farms is needed though a lot of them in our immediate area have already been identified. The workshop would be announced to the wetland agents within the District and a list of horse owners collected from the tax assessors' offices in the region.

Speakers would include representatives from NRCS and UConn Extension. The SBPAC also recommended that Stuart Sachs, LA, describe the stormwater management improvements made by the Club and that Dick Harris talk about the effect of bacteria on water quality and how the improvements made at the Club have improved water quality in Sasco Brook. A tour of the Club was also recommended.

The event would likely be held the end of May, beginning of June. Ms. Nelson will verify availability of the Club and report to Mr. Mrozinski forthwith.

4. Water Quality Testing Results taken by HarborWatch/RiverWatch

Mr. Harris reported on the test results conducted in the vicinity of the Hunt Club which included 5 test sites: Hulls Farm Rd., Old Rd, top and bottom of dam and Bulkley Ave N. The group was happy to hear that weekly testing conducted between September 27, 2011 and January 10, 2012 has met the state's requirements. Though it is winter the group is cautiously optimistic that we have reached a turning point in the water quality improvement of the brook at least in this section.

Mr. Sachs added that the drainage improvements in the upper 7 acres of the Hunt Club is complete. Runoff infiltration rate is high.

He did say that drainage from the polo fields may still be problem but curtain drains around tent sites will help. Also, the habits of the visiting horse owners during the horse shows is still a problem but the Club is constantly monitoring the situation during these events.

5. Progress Report on:

- a. Endorsement of Watershed Vision**
- b. Presentation and Distribution**
- c. Memorandum of Agreement**

Geoff and Alicia reported that they met with the Westport First Selectman, Gordon Joseloff who was supportive of the plan but said we needed the request for him to sign the MOA be placed on a Board of Selectman agenda. He also suggested the actual signing take place where the brook is visible such as Southport Beach at the mouth of the brook,

Geoff also suggested that the signing ceremony include a "2012 Sasco Brook Stewardship Award" given to someone or a group recognizing them for something good they have done in the watershed. Possible recipients included: Mike Aitkenhead and Lara Donohue who lead the door-to-door survey, HW/RW volunteers and Elaine Long. The group agreed with the idea and will discuss further at next meeting.

With regard to the endorsement of the vision, Alicia distributed a draft letter that would serve as the cover letter to the invitees. The group reviewed it and agreed to submit edits. The target date to mail out the letter would be the week of February 6, 2012.

Tom Steinke said he would check to see if Board of Selectman approval is needed in Fairfield.

6. Other Business

a. Microbial source tracking Geoff reported that he, Dick, and 2 people from the Norwalk River Watershed Association (NRWA) went to Yale to discuss another method of DNA detection for source tracking using polychromate chain reaction. It costs \$100 for each signature run and it does not allow categorization of the contribution from each source in a single sample. NRWA would like to run a few tests to see what results come from it. EPA also interested in pursuing this method. It was suggested we may want to resubmit a grant proposal to NFWF using this new method.

b. Grants: Mr. Malik reported that :

- 319 grant proposals will be forthcoming with an August 1, 2012 deadline.
- Rivers Alliance has small grants available
- 604b – Supplemental Environmental Projects

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm **Next meeting:** March 29, 2012.