

DRAFT
Meeting Minutes
SASCO BROOK POLLUTION ABATEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
May 26, 2022

Members Present:

Alicia Mozian, Westport Conservation Director
Colin Kelly, Conservation Analyst
Nikki Spiller, Director, Harbor Watch
Mario DiPreta, Executive Director, Fairfield County Hunt Club
Britney Izbicki, U.S. Geologic Survey
Kelly Kultys
Mary Hogue, Fairfield Resident and Sustainable Fairfield volunteer
Tim Bishop, Conservation Director, Town of Fairfield
Will Hinkley, Intern with Sustainable Fairfield
Geoff Steadman, Consultant

1. Welcome Mario DiPreta, Executive Director, Fairfield County Hunt Club

- a. Congratulations to Nikki for her new appointment as Director of Harbor Watch
- b. Alicia noted it was five years ago this week she received her Community Leader award from the Environmental Law Institute for her work with the Sasco Brook Pollution Abatement Committee and said this was the highlight of her career with the Town

2. Approval of October 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve: Bishop Second: Spiller Vote: 2:0:2

3. Report from Harbor Watch on:

(a) Water Quality Monitoring Plans for 2022.

Nikki stated that the testing would focus on the lower section of Sasco from Pequot Ave to Hulls Farm Road in Fairfield, some of Bulkley Pond and Ulbrick Lane and Bulkley Ave. in Westport. Her team has already been sampled two times this year. Data is not yet available and will report findings at next meeting.

(b) Update on Status of NFWF Grant Application Submissions for Water Quality Pollution Track-down and Reporting

1. Long Island Sound Futures Fund grant submitted for 2-years of monitoring on 24 rivers in 15 towns. Sasco included as well as Great Brook- a tributary to Sasco in Fairfield.
2. Also submitted application for analysis of the long-term data collection of DO, Bacteria, and Water Temp. Analysis would also incorporate demographics and climate change. If this grant opportunity fails, a pilot program that would analyze data collected between 1990-2022 would be pursued.

(c) Fairfield County Hunt Club Horse Show Testing Schedule

Show dates June 21-25- Harbor Watch will sample June 23. Mario said attendance is expected to be lower than normal with 200 attendees rather than the normal 300. There are no plans to place tents

in or near wetland area. There will be no horse washing on lawn and manure will be gathered constantly.

Mario also stated that upgrades were done to the bio-retention swale this past spring.

August Horse Show August 16-21

Alicia said she would attempt doing education outreach of proper manure management during the shows with help from Sustainable Fairfield and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

4. Presentation by Brittany Izbicki of the U.S. Geologic Survey on Water Quality Monitoring Efforts at the Mouth of Sasco Brook and Vicinity

- USGS Embayment monitoring in Southport
- Two year study of nitrogen in Long Island Sound
- Hydrologic and water quality data being collected in Sasco and Saugatuck River as well as two other locations along the CT shoreline. Eight embayments have been prioritized by the state. USGS is monitoring 4 of the 8 priority embayments: Southport, Saugatuck, Norwalk and Mystic.
- Trying to gage how these waters are processing nitrogen from the watershed.
- Testing to be done two times/month May to October 2022 this summer and one time/month November to April 2024.
- In the Saugatuck River they are collecting at the Route 1 Bridge where their tide gage is, the Rowing Club, and off Longshore between Bluff Point.
- In Sasco, they are collecting data at the mouth at Southport Beach, Pequot Yacht Club and the mouth of the Mill River.
- They are also using the data collected from the gage they have at Hulls Farms Road. This gage has been collecting data since the 1960. Gage monitors water flow, nutrients, TSS, dissolved organic carbons.
- Discrete data is collected at each of the 3 locations identified in Southport, May through October 2022 and 1x/month for the remainder of the 2 years.
- Ammonia, Nitrate, Nitrite, TKN, N, Total Ph, Organic Nitrogen, Orthophosphate, Alkalinity, Silica, DO C, TSS, Carbonaceous BOD, Chlorophyll, Phytoplankton, Pheophytin a
- Continuous data are collected every 6 minutes at the mouth of Mill River (buoy) and Pequot Yacht Club from May 2022 through April 2024. The buoy location is real-time and the Pequot Yacht Club data is downloaded internally and uploaded to the web every 3 weeks. samples are collected every six minutes, available in real-time on the web
- Data includes: Water temp, Conductance, Salinity, DO, Turbidity, Chlorophyll, Photosynthetic Active Radiative, Biometric Pressure, Estuary Water Surface Elevation, and Velocity.
- Report.pdf (usgs.gov) Sasco Brook Watershed Report 1994-98

Geoff asked if there were opportunities to share the data with CT DEEP who has done lots of bacteria collection over the years? Nikki agreed. Geoff stated the Bureau of Aquaculture should also coordinate. Brittany would like to share the data at future meetings

Colin will create a link to the water quality data on our webpage. Have links to Harbor Watch data reports. He asked if there was a program to link the data together? Nikki said Save the Sound is working to create/develop a data base. Need to make sure they are not confusing and be easy for inputters to use. Maybe by the end of the year it'll be ready to get testers and then training. 1-2 year timeframe.

5. Update on Bulkley Pond Dam Breach and Wetland Restoration Efforts

- Work to start in June
- Tim said last open spaces around the pond in Fairfield that is 4.2 acres. Owners are will to donate land to the Town as they are in arrears of paying taxes.

Fairfield Report

- Noted participation today of Will Hinkley, a Middlebury College student majoring in Environment Science-

Other Business

- Retirement for Carla Nelson of the Hunt Club and Chris Malik of CT DEEP
- Geoff asked if Mark Cooper of the Health District ever published the results from the microbial source tracking project that used DNA to identify sources of bacteria. If so, we should get a copy of it.

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Submitted by Alicia Mozian