

Carmens River Task Force

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2008

Brookhaven Town Hall, Farmingville, New York

Chair: Adrienne Esposito

Members Present: Theresa Goergen (SC Dept. of Health) , Tamara Sadoo (SC Dept. of Environment and Energy), Deborah Lynn (Senator P. LaValle Representative), Johan McConnell (South Yaphank Civic), Robert Kessler (resident), George Costa (Trout Unlimited), Marty Van Lith (Open Space Council), Legislator Kate Browning, John Stehle (Resident), Chad Trusnovec (resident), Fran Hurley (Yaphank Taxpayers and Civic Association), Laura Bavaro (The Nature Conservancy), Samantha Homan (Assemblyman Alessi representative), Donna Lent (Assemblywoman Eddington representative), Councilwoman Kepert,

Members Absent: Steve Trusnovic, Anthony Graves

Guests Present: William Pelleny (Sound Beach Civic and Fire Dept.), Bob Bedrossian (Sound Beach Property Owners), Bill Jacobs (EEA), Robert Judd (Yaphank Resident), Audrey Kessler (Upper lake resident), Peggy Judd (Yaphank Resident, Coalition to Save the Lakes), Kathy Schwager (TNC), Dave Thompson (Trout Unlimited), Matthew Atkinson (Peconic Baykeeper), Sharon Wohlgemuth (Town Of Brookhaven DEP for Anthony Graves), Ann Carter (Central Pine Barrens Commission), Brad Angnello, Bill Duffy (Resident), Heidi O’Riordan (NYSDEC), Norman Soule (CSH Fish Hatchery & LITU), Tara Bono (Citizens Campaign for the Environment), Richard T. Monko (TU), Liz Krolik (Town Of Brookhaven), Carol Douley (citizen), Jim Gamaldi (Citizen), Ruth Trusnovec (lower lake resident), Robert Marsh (NYSDEC)

I. Introductions

II. Presentations

Guest Speaker, Tim Green, Brookhaven Lab, Director of Natural Resources,

Tim spoke about his proposed study to perform an extensive benthic study to collect a comprehensive sampling of invertebrates. The cost will be about \$120,000 and will take about a year and a half to complete, with one year being field research plus six months of compiling time. The study is necessary to look extensively into the basic habitats of the system. He stated that all runoff has some sort of impact on the system so his study will need to take water quality samples and life samples all the way down the river. A PCA or principle components analysis should be conducted to measure correlation of chemicals with distribution. The measure should be conducted as far up as Cathedral Pines.

Longwood and William Floyd schools will assist in the water quality sampling. At the end of the study there should be an understanding of how nitrate levels affect invasive species. The problem arises of having no baseline available to compare new findings to. A possibility is to find the research done by environmental students done in 1974 and any other available data.

Allied Biological was scheduled to present but due to inclement weather was unable to attend.

III. Outline final discussion of February 10th draft

A. Esposito motioned to review section XIII on the outline; analysis of control options. It includes the topics of community acceptance and post treatment monitoring. The section was accepted by the group as a whole. Matthew McAllister comments that milfoil may not be an invasive species, as fanwort has been moving north and have probably been introduced here several times before they stayed. He also mentions that there are many geological aspects that allow them to thrive in the lakes. His stated there is a need to know what caused the species to eventually reside and become invasive before we can do much about them. John responded that native species can be invasive. There was an agreement between all that there is a need to know what caused it so we can better take care of it in the future. A. Esposito will add this to the outline under section 9G. Discussion followed; the group points out that we can better understand this by looking at studies that has already been done to find how they got elsewhere and that will require an extensive literature search. A Yaphank resident explains that in upstate New York there have been extensive measures to control invasive species. They have boat clean up sites, widespread knowledge and awareness of the problem plant. The group concludes that Biomass is key and created by nutrient loading by both point and non-point sources.

Robert Marsh of the Department of Environmental Conservation discussed the departments concerns with the existing outline.

- Section XI: He stated that there needs to have both pre and post vegetative sampling done in ponds and especially downstream to test the effectiveness of the treatment. (Mainly referring to herbicide treatments) It is brought up that there was an extensive study done in the summer of 2007 by the Town of Brookhaven and Rob agrees that this is sufficient enough for a pre sampling date. He also stated that it would be helpful for the committee to review the Donahue's pond assessment of pre and post testing and see their results.
- Dam removal: There should be review of dam removal reports from similar water systems. A sediment load estimate would need to be acquired. Someone suggested a Wisconsin based company; Interfluke has done similar studies and should be looked at. The need for staging and dewatering of dredge materials should be added to the Feasibility study outline
- Transportation of dredged materials: Questions such as where would the dredged material go needs to be addressed
- Permit requests: DEC expressed concern over having permit request every few years, which could happen if herbicide was the agreed solution. They would need

a long-term commitment and possibly use hand pulling method to control in the future. There is also a question of disposal, using the hand pulling method. A committee member noted it could be used for composting.

- Benthic barriers: There is a need to show that this method has been successful somewhere else.
- Drawdown method: the DEC is concerned that our climate would not be an ideal location to try this method because our temperatures have not been constant enough, and would endanger other species.
- No-Action: DEC notes that although not a favorable possibility, the no-action possibility does need to be reviewed and added to the outline. A. Esposito will add it as section K.

In a following group discussion; it was discussed that residents should not use fertilizer, especially since it is now banned in the winter in Suffolk County. The group agreed education is a huge factor, and a possible education campaign was discussed. Laura of the Nature Conservancy states that there are multiple education grants available and that the idea of an education campaign is possible. Signs are already present in the upper lake and should be appearing in the lower lake in early spring. (NOTE: need for signs can be taken out of the outline).

There was a short debate on section eight on whether we would even be able to identify if a species was native and “historic” to the area because studies haven’t been done that far back, as the dam was created about two hundred years ago. There is a possibility of a 1938 study, and that would be most helpful identifying “historic” species.

Discussion to changes of the outline concluded. It was decided since many members were absent; an e-mail vote would be taken, instead of a vote at the meeting. **A. Esposito stated that she will get the final document out by Monday, February 18th and all members will need to respond “Yes” or “No” by e-mail by noon, Friday February 22nd.**

IV. Future Presenter Possibilities

It was decided that future presenters be given a time frame for presentations, as previous presentations have been very extensive. All agreed that we will have Allied Biological rescheduled and will ask them to include Donahue’s pond in their presentation. There is the possibility of bringing in another Brookhaven representative from the tour group that surveyed the river recently. Interfluke, the Wisconsin company, involved with dam removal and restoration could be invited to talk about that specific method. It is brought up that we should get more specific companies rather than the generalized companies that have showed us a brief review of a bunch of different options. Two other ideas for presenters were Nick Harris, Brook Trout expert, and a representative of the Yaphank Historical Society.

V. Future Meetings

The group decided upon a meeting on Thursday March 6th at 6:30 PM in the same room of Brookhaven Town Hall. And a second meeting of the full group was scheduled for Wednesday March 26th at 6:30PM in the same room.