

Draft Meeting Minutes

CENTER FOR THE INLAND BAYS CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE Thursday November 16, 2017

CAC Members in Attendance

Susie Ball CAC Chair, Ptery Iris, Pete Keenan, Cheryl Rehrig, Gary Taylor, John Austin, Gary Cannon, Janet Strickler

Guests: Richard Watson, Karen Beck

Call to Order

Pledge of allegiance

BUSINESS MEETING

Secretary Ptery Iris- Approval of minutes -unanimous

Announcements

- Welcome Richard Watson former sewage treatment plan manager
- Karen Beck lives on Herring Creek and has concerns about the creek
- Susie Ball announced that Joanne Cabry has resigned. Susie will serve as acting chair of the Board. We will miss Joanne and her wisdom.
- Ptery iris thanked Steve Britz and Susie Ball for their Osher course.

Executive Director Report

New sources of income for Center in form of grants.

Storm water control in Dewey. James farm grant .

Longwood grant denied except for matching \$100,000 to be matched by raising \$700000.

Reforestation grant will protect 200 acres of land from development. Will be 60 acres of forest. Loan pending.

Reforestation in Angola neck in its final phase. Goal of 100 volunteers to plant trees.

Delaware Nature Society - \$60;000 grant over two years for Clean Water Campaign.

Review of new board members.

Mountaire concerns. Particularly impact on Indian River. Hope to have town meeting with DNREC to address the contamination.

Pete Keenan asked about our EPA funding.

Mountaire Discussion

Mountaire received notice of violation from DNREC from their wastewater spray irrigation fields with multiple violations. They have significantly exceeded levels of contamination by bacteria and nitrate.

John Austin reviewed Mountaire history of violations and levels of contamination. Very large site. It would take years for nitrate levels to go down even if they were to stop spraying.

Ptery Iris asked if the waste could be taken away to another site.

Richard Watson shared his experience. He would not suggest spray irrigation in such a lowland area. He suggested looking at data to see how severe contamination is.

There was much discussion over the issue. Mitigation techniques were discussed. Our concern is contamination of drinking wells and the effect on the Indian River of inflow of high concentration of nitrates.

Chris Bason pointed out that the Indian River is one of the most polluted tidal rivers in the area. Excellent monitoring data to show this. There is 2-3 times the healthy level of nitrogen currently.

Concern of the CAC is abatement of groundwater contamination.

Ways to bring this to the public- writing to newspaper, forums, education on science.

There was discussion on the role of a resolution to send to the Board. No one was willing to or felt they had the expertise to follow through on studying the data. The issue will be brought to the Board. What is role of regulatory agency. This is a problem in the watershed. Are they enforcing appropriately?

Quantification of the loads in excess of permit.

Groundwater mitigation plan. Data was available of non-compliance throughout the year. Why did DNREC not act sooner. Stop levels should be introduced.

Suggestion was to present data to the Board. Need access to data through FOIA request.

Committee Reports

- Bacteria see Mountaire discussion
- Diversity – We continue to seek members from diverse backgrounds. Sierra club, realtor, educators.
- Outreach – Osher presentations

2018 meetings :

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Thursday, September 20, 2018

Thursday, November 8, 2018

Public comment

Meeting adjourn