

CENTER FOR THE INLAND BAYS

Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Center for the Inland Bays
Rehoboth Beach, DE
August 4, 2011

IN ATTENDANCE:

CAC Members Present	Robert Cubbison
William Zak, Chair	Barbara Lifflander
John Austin	Shirley Price
Robert Adams	Todd Smallwood
Steve Callanen	Randy Spence
Tom Ford	David Truitt
Robert Gallagher	Helen Truitt
Harry Haon	CAC Alternates Present - None
Pete Keenan	Members of the General Public
Carl Mantegna	Bob Batky
Vicky Mertes	Center for the Inland Bays Board
Doug Parham	Dr. Bill Ullman
Cheryl Rehrig	Center for the Inland Bays Staff
CAC Members Not In Attendance	Chris Bason
Carl Alesi	Sally Boswell
Bob Collins	Eric Buehl

MINUTES:

Welcome and Introductions

Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) Chairman Bill Zak called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and then introductions. During announcements, Bill Zak pointed out that there was an issue that had been previously raised by Councilwoman Joan Deaver regarding build-out and voting blocks. The issue focused on how might these ± 6,000 additional homes have an impact on both future voting districts and water quality. A brief discussion followed.

Treasurer's and Secretary's Reports

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the June 23, 2011 meeting minutes pending the addition of those in attendance. Harry Haon moved to approve the minutes with additions and John Austin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

STAC Chair Presentation on the Wandendale Project

Dr. Bill Ullman, Chair of the Center's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), stated that he prefers waste going through plants where monitoring occurs and pointed out that larger facilities are generally better than smaller ones. He also pointed out that this facility is proposed to be located in an area with a growing population. He doesn't feel that the Center and/or the CAC should be against wastewater treatment facilities (WWTF) in general; emphasis should be placed on ensuring that the facilities are efficient and professionally run. He felt that the Center should actually be looking at the new on-site system regulations (i.e. do they meet total maximum daily loads [TMDL], etc.). It was his recommendation that the Center Board focus on the best possible wastewater treatment regulations and not on individual plants. This was followed by a brief question and answer session.

Questions and comments from CAC members focused on the proposed facility's proximity to the bay, private versus publicly-operated WWTFs, the speed at which groundwater loads may reach the bays, and the need for Tidewater to use rapid infiltration basins (RIB). Dr. Ullman brought up an additional issue that the Center and STAC are looking into and that is whether the new wastewater treatment regulations would allow wastewater to be treated and then sold to farmers to use as fertilizer. It is not in the current regulations and this would require several divisions within DNREC and the State Department of Agriculture to work together.

Dr. Ullman closed by stating that the environmental standards for the State of Delaware, related directly to this project as well as pending wastewater regulations that will affect the facility in the near future, have to be met by the Wandendale facility and its operators. Bill Zak thanked Dr. Ullman and noted that there are still unanswered questions regarding the project that need to be asked of DNREC.

Report on SPC's request for meeting with DNREC to ask specific, unanswered questions necessary to informing the CIB Board's evaluation of the Tidewater Construction permit

Chris Bason reported on consensus issues from the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) meeting that included: continued growth in the watershed and bay sensitivity to nutrient inputs. The Center has taken a position on similar issues; these regulations need the Center's attention-the need to see the nutrient budget/loads for the project and the status of the operation plan (RIBs vs spray irrigation). Chris stated that the way to handle this is by getting the information with enough time to respond, improving the process to handle projects like this, and the need for CAC's input.

CAC discussion of SPC's requests and further suggestions

Bill Zak felt that CAC should ask for an immediate meeting with DNREC to discuss questions about the project. Following discussion on the matter, Harry Haon suggested that a letter be sent to DNREC Secretary O'Mara about the questions and to ask for a meeting. Carl Mantegna motioned, with a second from Robert Adams, that a letter be sent to DNREC Secretary O'Mara listing questions about the Wandendale Project and to request a meeting with DNREC prior to the public hearing. The motion passed. The letter will be drafted by Bill Zak, John Austin, and Chris Bason.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Fish Study

In an effort to remain on time, this was tabled until a future meeting.

Burton Island Remediation Project

Bill Zak said that the Shaw Report was out and urged everyone to look at the conclusions. He said that it does not address storms or sea level rise, that there were no empirical fish studies to evaluate, that there were no further studies on bay sediments (CAC would like to add Arsenic and Selenium), and that there was no data on the effectiveness of the rip-rap. This was followed by discussion that focused on hydraulic connections to aquifers, the requirement to clean up the island based on human health reasons, and varying estimates of contamination levels. Steve Callanen spoke about maps of clam study sites and information available from a nearby US Geological Survey tide gage at Rosedale Beach. Copies will be distributed electronically after the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

CAC Elections

Harry Haon volunteered to serve as the Chair of the Nominating Committee along with other Committee members Doug Parham and Steve Callanen. The Committee will poll the membership for those wishing to serve in the capacity as CAC Chair and will report back at the next CAC meeting. At such time, the CAC will hold an election based on the Nominating Committee's findings as well as accepting nominations from the floor.

OPEN FORUM

Doug Parham informed those present about a meeting coming up in Seaford on Monday related to the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and potential funding for farmers to implement best management practices (BMPs). He also asked if the CAC could get someone knowledgeable about confined animal feeding operation (CAFO) regulations to come and speak at a future meeting.

Next Meeting

The next CAC is scheduled for Thursday, September 8th at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

At 6:04 p.m., Bob Adams motioned to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Bob Gallagher. The motion passed.

Respectfully reviewed and submitted,

Bill Zak, Chair
WZ/ehb