



Manhasset Bay Protection Committee

Minutes: April 6, 2017, 7:30pm

Law Library, Town Hall

Attendance: Brian Herrington (Flower Hill), Dan Fucci (Nassau Co), Ray Herbert (Plandome), Jennifer Wilson-Pines (Manorhaven), Dianne Sheehan (Plandome Heights), Pasqua Dziadul (Sands Point), Chris Shannon (Councilwoman DiGeorgio’s office), Chuck Idol (Baxter Estates), Annie Mendelson (Great Neck), Erin Reilley (Town of North Hempstead), Bob Keane (Chairman, Port Washington North), Sarah Deonarine (Director)

Meeting was called to order at 7:35pm with a quorum in attendance.

Note: Action items are in **yellow highlight**. **Motions are highlighted in blue.**

Final Presentation by Fuss & O’Neill: Manhasset Bay Water Quality Report, 2009 – 2015

MBPC asked three key questions:

- What are potential relationships between bacteria data and rainfall and tidal data?
- Are there temporal and spatial trends in bacteria data that indicate changes in water quality?
- Can the influence/impact of stormwater runoff on the bay water quality be determined?

New analyses since 2-2-17 meeting:

- F&O utilized UConn CLEAR land cover data (not land use data) to update the GIS figure. Deonarine is still reaching out to the Town for land use layer and the County for outfall layer.
- Looked at surface data for IEC¹ (instead of mid-point) and added the inner bay IEC station, which yielded some interesting results: We see changes in IEC data pre- and post-2011 – suggests sampling changes. These changes in data don’t affect overall conclusions.
- Spatial trends have appeared with looking at third IEC station (inner bay)
- Divided data into wet (rain day of or 2-days prior) or dry. Summarized statistics by location (each year and each bacteria).

MB-1	Leeds Pond	MB-4	NUN 4
MB-2	Kennelworth	MB-5	Baxter Beach
MB-3	Manorhaven	MB-6	Manorhaven Beach

- MB-1 and MB-6 don’t show any difference in fecal coliform data from wet and dry weather.
- MB-5 has dry weather bacteria counts (enterococcus) that exceed water quality standards. Wilson-Pines: MB-5 is sampled over top of the outfall pipe for the Port Washington WPCD². Dianne: this may warrant further investigation and some of these numbers exceed effluent standards. Wilson-Pines: There have been line breaks over the sampling period.
- 2011 saw Hurricane Irene (9” rain fall) – these events are important, but ran lag correlation without this data and still see lag consistent with stormwater (stronger in some locations, but present across the bay). Dianne will add a description of Hurricane Irene to the report
- Wilson-Pines: MB-1 has a large flock of Canada geese present almost year-round. Also, homes there are unsewered and cesspools are likely sitting in the water table. Mas: Do need to tease out the source of the bacteria; this helps inform management.

¹ Interstate Environmental Commission, they sample all of Long Island Sound every Tuesday over the summer

² Water Pollution Control District

Manhasset Bay Protection Committee draft minutes of April 6, 2017

Key conclusions:

- There are water quality differences from west to east (less developed to more developed)
- DO³ (and transparency) decreases from LIS into the Bay, not surprising since we're moving towards land (less mixing, etc). Some points do drop into anoxic conditions.
- No strong visual temporal trend in bacteria; perhaps some changes timed with STP⁴ upgrades.
- Concentrations of fecal coliform and enterococcus appear to be influenced by stormwater runoff at all stations

Key recommendations:

- Align our sampling with IEC's
- Revisit WQIP⁵ (new or update old WQIP) to identify multiple causes of bacteria and prioritize actions at the watershed level
- Leverage the MS4 program to work on illicit discharge detection and elimination
- DNA testing to identify human sources of bacteria (MB-1 and MB-5)

Q&A:

What will the public think? We don't see significant change over time; things are definitely not getting worse, though also no significant improvement. But this is only a snapshot of 6 years. We need to figure out a way to temper it. Suggestion: the Committee writes an Executive Summary to highlight that this is a snapshot, talk about our initiatives like Get Pumped, LINAP⁶, and other new things happening; state that water quality has not gotten worse and we are convinced it will get better; and throw it back on the public that water quality will only improve with their help. **Deonarine will begin drafting.** Also note, the measurements in the LIS are worse (IEC data), but this was not included in this report.

Deonarine met with Mal Nathan (Chief Bay Constable) and Shawn Brown (Commissioner of Public Safety) earlier in the day to discuss adding both secchi disk measurements and a new probe to collect DO, pH, salinity. Question to F&O: doing this, would we get closer to what IEC collects if we aren't able to sample on the same days (they sample Tuesdays, we sample Mondays). Yes, and this would actually be more directly applicable (since they are our stations). As a side note: they requested that MBPC cover the cost of gas for the sampling boat, the Committee was on-board with this and will vote once a cost estimate is officially received.

F&O will take additional comments and edits for next two weeks, but they can't do additional analysis. F&O will add in mention of plant co-located with MB-5 and other local knowledge. Aim to wrap everything up by end of April.

It was recommended to let the two Bay WPCDs know that this report is coming out and find out what their effluent standards are and when they've had events.

Deonarine noted that she submitted the application to the EPA Equipment Loan Program for the handheld water quality meter. If we don't get approved, Dan Fucci may be able to come up with money from the Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District to purchase one. We would have to submit a proposal.

³ Dissolved Oxygen

⁴ Sewage Treatment Plant

⁵ Water Quality Improvement Plan

⁶ Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan

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Committee trust fund quarterly report:

Manhasset Bay Protection Committee Trust Account			
First Quarter: January 1 - March 30, 2017			
	Expenditures	Deposits	Balance
Beginning balance:			\$124,013.53
2017 dues payments			\$124,013.53
Director salary	\$5,880.00		\$118,133.53
Almetek (storm drain medallions)	\$866.50		\$117,267.03
Ending balance:			\$117,267.03
Totals:	\$6,746.50	\$0.00	

- Dues invoices will be going out week of 4/10
- We rolled over \$124,000 from previous year? Yes. Maybe we should **come up with a wishlist** of things (i.e., put together a budget toward MS4 activities).
- Other wishlist ideas: Handheld DNA tester, new or updated WQIP (recommendation to have a smaller, project-based plan and, before that, **look at the 12 projects from the previous plan and see what was accomplished; it's also important to find out who used the previous plan and how**).

Motion points:

- **Dan Fucci made motion to approve the minutes of March 9, 2017.** Brian Herrington seconded. All in favor. No opposed.
- Ocean plastics presentation: Erica Cirino (<http://www.ericacirino.com/speaking/>) is a freelance science writer and artist who crossed the Great Pacific Garbage Patch in a sailboat and is now doing a “Go and See Tour” to talk about her experience and explain the science of plastic pollution. She reached out to the Manhasset Library (Debbie Dellis-Quinn, Adult Programs & Community Relations Director) and the Library (Debbie) put us in touch, thinking MBPC would be suitable to host. It’s a little bit of a stretch, but public outreach and reducing “floatables” in the Bay are the goals of both the Committee and the MS4 program, but she charges \$200 per presentation and the other Protection Committees (when Deonaraine reached out to them about her program) didn’t seem particularly enthused. **The Committee decided to table the discussion in order to gather more information on her presentation.**

Discussion points:

- Harbor Fest, Sunday, June 4th, all day at Town Dock in Port Washington, please sign-up to volunteer, if you can. Citizens Campaign for the Environment reached out to Flower Hill to do a pharmaceutical take back program: is this something we’d be interested in combining with Harbor Fest? **Chris Shannon will mention at next Harbor Fest planning meeting.** If we do this, we have to make sure to advertise the location of pharmaceutical drop boxes (the long-term answer).
- Deonaraine passed around a draft version of Port Washington Library Earth Day Event pledge cards and got some feedback to incorporate.

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Annual MS4 reports are due June 1st:

NYSDEC has advised that **it is necessary to file semi-annual reports** (requirement from Part IX) **with June 2017 MS4 annual reports** (if your municipality is subject to this). However, the last three pages of the annual report form (“Additional Watershed Improvement Strategy Best Management Practices”) do not need to be filled out. The reporting period for the semi-annual report is September 10, 2016-March 9, 2017. So:

- We DO need to submit the Semi-Annual Reports in June and December.
- We do NOT need to submit the last 3 pages of the Annual Report

DEC has advised that if anyone is concerned that they will not be able to meet the June 1st reporting deadline due to this mix-up, they can contact Ethan Sullivan at [518-402-1382](tel:518-402-1382) or ethan.sullivan@dec.ny.gov.

Joint Protection Committee meeting

The latest plan being discussed by the various Committee Directors is a Town Hall style meeting with Representative Tom Suozzi on Saturday, May 11th. The Committee requested that this not be the direction our joint meeting goes.

Boat tour update

Meyran Marine is selling the party boat, but Angler Fleet off Inspiration Wharf (http://www.theangler.com/New-May-09/Private_Charters.htm) can accommodate us. Deonarine will make the necessary plans.

Eelgrass update

After our last meeting and at the suggestion of Jennifer Wilson-Pines, Deonarine called Soren Dahl, the Sea Grass Coordinator for NYSDEC (he’s focused on the management side, not restoration). He confirmed that restoration has only been successful very far east. As a rough proxy for whether restoration would be successful, we can measure temperature and light penetration – Cornell said same thing to Erin Reilley. This summer the Bay Constables will be adding light penetration (secchi disk) recordings to their sampling. Deonarine recommended we hold off on pursuing restoration.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm

Upcoming meetings: May 4, June 8, joint meeting May ?, boat tour June 19

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