

Town of Inlet  
Clean Waters Committee  
September 28, 2004

The Clean Waters Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, September 28, 2004 in the meeting room of the Inlet Town Hall at 7:30 PM.

Members Present:

Tom Prevost, Chairman  
Mick Lehman, Bernier, Carr and Associate  
Matt Cooper, Bernier, Carr and Associate  
Ken Nelson  
John Frey  
Adele Burnett, Recording Secretary

Also Present:

Elizabeth Mangle, District Manager Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation  
Pete Klein, Hamilton County News  
Margaret

Chairman Prevost introduced Elizabeth Mangle, District Manager from the Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District, who he invited to speak to this group. Elizabeth explained many of the things that the Soil & Water Conservation District does. She stated that the Soil & Water District is not a county program, but that they receive money from the county and through grants, etc. They currently have four full-time employees and one part-time employee. They have a website at [www.hamiltoncountyswcd.com](http://www.hamiltoncountyswcd.com) that has lots of information including 10 years worth of data that has been collected on the county's waterways.

Elizabeth talked about what kind of testing they do and the procedures they use. It was explained that associations on the lakes collect some of the data that they use. Soil & Water gives the equipment to the lake associations to be used for testing, hoping that this will increase interest in the lakes among the people who live on them and increase their desire to protect them.

Tom asked about testing done along the channel between Fourth & Fifth Lakes. Elizabeth explained that testing has been done on the channel, and that there has yet to be any indication of immediate concern. But because this group is interested in this area, she can arrange for more testing to be done. This information, as all their information collected, will be available for the public. She explained that they would help in any way they can to collect data or share data that they have already collected. If they do not have the personnel qualified for the task, they can seek out the scientists, etc who are.

Elizabeth went on to explain the many educational events and activities that they do in an effort to educate the county about our lakes and waterways. These events include poster contests, Envirothon, shoreline management programs and much more. She also explained that in the future towns within Hamilton County would be able to access the resource center for GIS mapping.

Tom explained that this committee would be looking for an outside agency to review what the engineers have come up with, like a second opinion. Elizabeth stated that Soil & Water does not have the staff that could do this, but would find scientists for us who can.

Both Ken Nelson and John Frey stated that this committee would like to see more data collected, pointing out that one of the reasons the original sewer district proposal failed was because there was not enough data. Elizabeth again stated that Soil & Water would do whatever they can to help this committee. Someone just needs to contact them and explain what they need. Example being, now that they know this committee is looking for more information on the channel between Fourth & Fifth, more data will be collected from that area.

Questions were asked about the testing done at the Arrowhead beach. It was explained that the testing that is done by the Town for this area does not include numbers. It is strictly a pass or fail test. It was stated that both the water at Fern Park and at the Town Hall had recently failed their chloroform tests. John explained that the fail at Fern Park was most likely due to an improperly planned storage tank for the ice skating rink, and that a new system had been installed. He also explained that a new system was being installed at the Town Hall, and that this water is not the same that is used by the cottages and the bathrooms at Arrowhead Park.

John asked if some sort of "cliff notes" could be provided with the data to make it easier to understand. Elizabeth stated that the 10 year report would do this and she again stated that Soil & Water will do anything they can to help, they just need to be asked.

Elizabeth stated that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation receives copies of all reports taken by Hamilton County Soil & Water. She commented that the Fulton chain of Lakes has done a lot of good things with their lakes.

The group thanked Elizabeth for her time. She will be added to this committee's mailing list.

Matt Cooper and Mick Lehman then presented the group with preliminary estimated numbers for the three proposed systems. The downtown sewer system that would service both sides of the road from the Delmarsh property on Fifth Lake to Mary's Gift Shop and from the old American Legion building to St. Anthony's with a wastewater treatment plant located at Fern Park and an outfall into Fourth Lake was discussed first.

The estimated figures on this project produced an estimated dollar amount per EDU of \$763, which would exceed the State Comptroller's Limit. Discussion followed that included the question of whether it would be more economical to purchase land downtown for the wastewater treatment plant. It was noted that such a plant required a minimum of 500 feet setback from any dwelling. This would be impossible downtown.

Estimated numbers for the proposed cluster systems were discussed next. The cluster systems would include three clusters; one to service properties from the Delmarsh property on Fifth Lake along the channel to Screamen Eagle, one to service properties from the Koffee Korner along the channel to the King property, and one to service the Wine shop, Finders Keepers & Burkhard Evans. There would be septic tank and subsurface discharge locations for this system at both Fern Park and Arrowhead Park. The estimated numbers for this system produced an estimated dollar amount per EDU of \$538. It was pointed out that this option would take care of the properties with existing sewer concerns, but that it would not solve any water concerns.

The proposed water system would service both sides of the road from the Delmarsh property on Fifth Lake to the Woods Inn and from the old Legion Hall to St. Anthony's. Estimated numbers for this system produced an estimated dollar amount per EDU of \$455. This system would also allow for fire hydrants to be placed downtown. Possible locations for the main and distribution system have been identified at Fern Park, on the end of Gilbert Road and near Hess Pond. There was some discussion on the billing methods for a water system. It was stated that most likely there will be a set "debt charge" and then a separate metered usage charge.

There was some discussion on the formula used to determine EDUs and it was suggested that these numbers need to be looked over again. The group thanked Matt & Mick for their time. There was a brief discussion on how to get more people involved in the research of these proposed systems, how to get the input of those who these systems will affect. It was suggested that letters be sent to those in the proposed districts.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, October 26, 2004 at 7:30 PM in the Meeting Room of the Inlet Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectively yours,

Adele M. Burnett