

Danville Conservation Commission Notes (DCC)

Location: Danville Town Hall

4/1/19

Attendance: Deb Yonker, Dave Houston, Bridget Ferrin-Smith, and Vange Morse, Ben Copans, Kerry O'Brian, Debra Bixby, Brian Henderson, Barb Huibregtse

Meeting Notes:

1. Approved minutes of February 4, 2019
2. Discussed Town Meeting Vote on the Conservation Fund
3. Introduced potential new members
4. Kerry O'Brian from the Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District and Ben Copans the Passumpsic Watershed Coordinator from the Department of Conservation: presented their work on the Passumpsic Tactical Basin Plan.

Information on the presentation follows:

Some waterways in the Danville area which drain in to the Passumpsic Watershed have previously been monitored/tested. Water quality monitoring includes water sampling as well as biological macroinvertebrate species inventory (ex: trout). They also use geomorphic assessment to analyze bank erosion potentials and the benefit/cost to removing existing dams.

Some areas where they have already collected data include:

-Water Anderic: waste water treatment facility and other inputs are resulting in high phosphorus numbers, nitrogen and ammonia. Erosion could also be impacting biologic make up of watershed

-Joes Pond-Increasing nutrient trend observed in the spring data monitoring

There is a Lakewise program which some towns have had success with helping with Lakeshore restoration. Are landowners from Joes Pond interested in participate in the Lakewise Program?

- Sleeper's River- Erosion and sediment, Timber Crib Dam, USGS Weirs, road failures

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Water Quality Protection Priorities- waterbodies are labeled in different categories: A, A1 B, B1, each category sets water temperature and quality standards

They are seeking public input on Brooks- Whitman Brook, Brown Brook, Joes Brook. Are there priority waters which residents would like to have more data about?

Suggested Potential Projects- Water sampling on Water Andric, Joes Brook, Sleeper's River etc...

What is the community interest? Should we develop a survey as a DCC to determine which waterways are of interest for monitoring water quality?

We discussed Stream flow protection on Joes Brook and if there is a way to find out when they release water from Joes Pond into Joes Brook. This influx of water drastically changes the volume in the river and would be interesting to see how high it goes. It can also be a safety hazard in the summer when families are swimming in the river.

What direction were you imagining us helping with?

Possibly water quality assessments, flow monitoring- range of flow conditions

Sampling: Nitrogen (48 hour hold time) & Ecoli (6 hour hold time)

Sampling frequencies- monthly sampling and run off events, but could vary

Stream Walks could be events-outreach

Possible grants- for other projects

Ben will help pick out sites and help analyze the data (~5 mins per site)

5. Next meeting May 6th.

To Do:

Vange will check in with selectboard to introduce and elect new members of the selectboard- When will be a good time for them to attend?

Agenda for next meeting:

1. Discuss possible Water Quality Projects (water shed monitoring)
2. Determine water sheds that we would like to explore.
3. Discuss outreach projects (Joe's Pond, Stream Walks, etc...)
4. Discuss other projects we would like to focus on this year.