

WQCC Virtual Meeting Notes for April 4, 2024

DRAFT

Attendance: John Abbatangelo, Tolly Beck, Adam Bradford, Matt Ceplo (Chair WQCC), Madison Clapp, Scott Cuppet, James Elling, Shari Gold, Ingrid Haeckel, Andrew Juhl, Jim Katz, Michael Kezner, Beth Roessler, Brianna Rosamilia, Rassie Sayess, Jen Zunino-Smith

1. Call to Order: Matt Ceplo, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. Matt welcomed Shari Gold from Veolia, who introduced herself as the Conservation Program Manager at Veolia.

3. Treasury Report: Matt reported the WQCC balance remains the same at \$1,144.23.

4. Speaker: Matt introduced the speaker, Dr. Andrew Juhl, a Research Professor at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory who presented a program on Microbial Water Quality in the Hudson River: History and Insights from 15 Years of Sampling.

Program Summary:

Dr. Juhl arrived at Lamont-Doherty in 2004 and was surprised to find that there was no data about Hudson River water quality north of the Bronx. John Lipscomb, the Riverkeeper Captain, came to LDEO in 2006 asking about "How's the water?". People knew the water in the Hudson River was bad but wanted to know if it had gotten better. Working with John Lipscomb, water was then sampled annually from NYC to the TZ Bridge.

In 2008 with Wallace Foundation support the Riverkeeper vessel was outfitted with sampling equipment and samples were taken once a month. From 2006-2008, the entire tidal estuary was sampled from NYC to Troy. Enterococci (fecal indicators of humans, animals and birds) were used for fresh, brackish and marine quality assessments. In 2011 Riverkeeper began to use citizen sampling and results were posted on the web. Data was collected at the same locations over many years. From the total samples, 23% of the samples resulted in beach advisories and 77% of the samples were acceptable. From this, regional patterns emerged.

For the lower Hudson River samples were taken in different types of locations. Samples were taken from both the middle of the channel and areas of the shore. Tributaries to the Hudson are frequently more contaminated than the Hudson due to higher populations. Sewage contamination tends to be localized. Local problems have local sources and therefore local solutions. Higher sediments of enterococci concentrations are found close to shore as water near the shore is shallow. Counts are higher following rainfall. Some locations are good, some bad but most were just temporarily variable.

5. Old Business: Matt said that trout stocking had been stopped at least for this year at Sparkill Creek. Trout were not stocked at Pascack Brook this year because a bridge was out. Trout will be stocked there next year.

6. New Business: Beth R. said there will be a Department of Conservation Webinar on April 11 at 1:00pm on successful grants to the Estuary program. There will be highlights of recent grant projects on Watershed Studies and Reconnecting.

Brianna said the eel project is midway through. Adam Bradford is the new coordinator of the eel project.

7. Next Meeting: September 5, 2024

8. Adjournment: Matt adjourned the meeting at 11:25am.