

Shellfish Conservation Committee

February 13, 2023

Ellingwood Information Center

Committee Members present: Ronald Poland, Steve Lackovic, Steve Termine, David Cheney

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm.

DMR Mini-Grant Application

This meeting was called to discuss the grant application which is due on 3/10/23. The committee presented various ideas, goose depredation, water quality testing, dog waste station installation.

It was decided by the committee to not include goose depredation in the grant application (see below).

The committee decided to write two grant options- one for water testing and another for dog waste station installation. (drafts attached to these minutes)

Good Depredation

On a motion by Cheney and seconded by Termine the committee agreed to spend the following from their funds for the purpose of good depredation:

Ammunition \$20.00/box x 4 boxes	\$80.00
Fuel \$150.00	\$150.00
Disposal of geese \$5/goose x 40 geese	\$200.00
Hourly \$22.50/hour x 50 hours	<u>\$1,125.00</u>
	\$1,555.00

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 6, 2023 at The Bristol Town Office.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jess Bourne

Shellfish Committee Secretary

DRAFT

Municipal Shellfish Management Mini-Grant Request from the Bristol Shellfish Conservation Committee

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Jess Bourne
Town of Bristol
PO Box 339
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Bristol, ME 04539
207-563-5270
jbourne@bristolmaine.org

PROJECT COORDINATOR(S):

Steve Lackovic, Bristol Shellfish Committee Chair
207-563-1078

David Cheney, Bristol Shellfish Committee
207-350-0847
johnsriveroyster@tidewater.net

DATES:

April 2023 – December 2023

GOALS:

- Install and maintain educational signage and waste stations to help mitigate canine fecal waste at all public landings, boat launches, swimming areas and community floats.

Problem Statement

After several years of water testing, DNA analysis and completion of a septic risk assessment in Schoolhouse Cove, DMR's conditionally approved status of the area remains unchanged. Schoolhouse Cove remains closed to shellfish harvesting from May 1 to October 31.

Local public landings and launches are frequented by people walking dogs, the waste from the dogs is often not cleaned up and therefore impacts the water quality of the shellfish harvesting areas.

Solution

The Bristol Shellfish Committee in collaboration with the Bristol Parks Department will install dog waste stations and signs at public landings, boat launches, community floats, and local swimming areas. The committee and parks department will empty waste cans and provide additional waste bags as needed through the busy spring through fall seasons. Through community education and ongoing water testing with FB Environmental the committee will monitor the effectiveness of providing this education and waste disposal option.

Capacity.

The Bristol Shellfish Committee is comprised of 5 members, all commercial harvesters. The committee governs the Town's Shellfish Conservation Ordinance, oversees conservation measures, and manages license sales.

The Bristol Parks department works with the town and residents to maintain safe, clean, and inviting areas for recreation throughout the Bristol peninsula.

The Town Clerk attends all shellfish committee meetings, updates closed area notifications, assists with DMR's annual management review, and handles license sales.

Margaret Kelley from FB Environmental Associates has worked with Bristol's Shellfish Committee for the past year on a Pemaquid Watershed Plan. She has been overwhelmingly helpful.

Hannah Annis is Bristol's DMR local area biologist.

Erin Reeves is Bristol's Treasurer and is responsible for managing grant funds.

Brent Barter contracts with the town of Bristol for Shellfish Warden services.

****All the above-named participants have been notified of this grant request and have agreed to participate if Bristol's Shellfish Committee is awarded a grant.**

Limiting Factors.

Increasing traffic to all local launches, landings, swimming areas and floats increases the risks for fecal contamination from dog waste. Enforcement of dog waste clean up will be a challenge as many of these public areas are not consistently monitored.

Sharing Project Data and Learning.

All project information and water testing results are posted on Bristol's website.

(<https://www.bristolmaine.org/shellfish-conservation-committee>). All closure information, meeting agendas and minutes are also available on the website.

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DATES:

April 2023 – December 2023

GOALS:

- Implement a sampling schedule to track sources of fecal bacteria to upgrade shellfish harvesting from seasonal to year-round. The focus of this testing will be in the Pemaquid River watershed and surrounding streams and coves.

Problem Statement

After several years of water testing, DNA analysis and completion of a septic risk assessment in Schoolhouse Cove, DMR's conditionally approved status of the area remains unchanged. Schoolhouse Cove remains closed to shellfish harvesting from May 1 to October 31.

Solution

FB Environmental will complete water sampling at four different locations. Sampling will be conducted three times from May to September at each location, two during dry weather events and one after a wet weather event. Previous sampling in 2018 and 2019 has been helpful to determine where additional sampling in 2023 is needed. Sampling parameters will include E. coli, nitrite and nitrate, phosphorus, optical brighteners and mtDNA for canine and human presence. Information collected from 2018, 2019 and 2022 will be used to determine future sampling sites and to implement a schedule to pinpoint the source of fecal bacteria.

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Limiting Factors.

The Schoolhouse Cove tributary and septic risk assessment is about 1000 acres consisting of 71 parcels and 40 septic systems. Determining the exact point of fecal contamination will be time-consuming and costly. Repair of any malfunctioning septic systems will be the responsibility of the property owner.

The presence of human, dog, goose, chicken and beaver markers in water samples can stem from any number of sources- along with this ongoing water testing, the committee is working on acquiring and installing dog waste stations at local public landings, boat launches, community floats and swimming areas.

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