

Shellfish Conservation Committee

**April 9th, 2018
Bristol Town Hall**

Committee Members present: Scott Burke, Dave Cheney, Steve Lackovic, Ronald Poland, Steve Termine

Also present: Hannah Annis (DMR); Margaret Burns (FB Environmental); Chris Hall (Town Administrator); Chad Hammond; Jim Hatch (PWA); Cody Leeman; Ernest Poland; Amy O'Brien; Corey Poland; Benjamin Sack; Carolyn Shubert (PWA); Philip Studley.

The meeting was called to order at 6:09pm by chair Steve Lackovic.

The meeting's agenda was limited to discussion of the Lower Pemaquid Watershed Study, the goal of which is to identify sources of point and non-point bacterial contamination of the Pemaquid Harbor shellfish flats.

Maggie Burns of FB Environmental explained that this project is funded by a small DEP grant to the Town of Bristol, in partnership with the Pemaquid Watershed Association, and with FB Environmental as contractor responsible for the testing plan and writing a report which it is hoped will be a basis for further funds to clean up identified sources of contamination. FB propose testing for *enterococci* (a bacteria found in the intestines of mammals) as an indicator of pathogens, instead of the more broadly-based *e. coli* used in most DMR testing.

Volunteers are needed to take water samples from at least 8 locations on a list of locations identified by the Town and PWA, between the Bristol Mills dam and the outlet on the main stem of the Pemaquid River, and also on Little Brook and at the outlets of un-named brooks emptying into Schoolhouse Cove and Coombs Cove.

A meeting will be scheduled in May to train and certify volunteers, using trainers from the Maine Healthy Beaches Program; this will be held at the Bristol Mills Dam, during a high tide so as to limit interference with shellfish harvesting.

During the summer, FB will identify a forecast rain event, and activate a telephone chain of volunteers. Samples will be taken before, during, and within 24 hours after, a rainfall of at least $\frac{3}{4}$ inch. Samples will be tested at the DRA's lab in Damariscotta, courtesy of Sara Gladu of the DRA, at a significant cost saving compared to taking them to labs in Augusta or Rockland.

A sign-up sheet was circulated, with chair Steve Lackovic stressing that hours spent on this activity count towards commercial harvesters' quota of conservation hours.

There being no other agenda items, the Committee adjourned at 8:13pm. The next meeting will be on May 7th @ 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Hall