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Orleans Shellfish & Waterways Committee Minutes - March 8, 2011

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Wed, Mar 9, 2011 at 11:02 AM

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Orleans Shellfish & Waterways Advisory Committee

NO QUORUM

Minutes of the 'discussion' of Tuesday, March 8, 2011.

Attendance: Don Baker (Chairman) Mark Mathison, Rich Tyldesley, David Slack (Acting Sec.), Dawson Farber (Harbormaster), Dave Dunsford (Selectman), Carolyn Kennedy (Guest), Gilbert Merritt (Guest)

At 7:03 PM Don announced we lacked quorum for an official meeting. Those present wished to continue with an informal discussion. Carolyn (Chair of the Marine & Fresh Water Quality Task Force) presented findings from their workshop held in December.

For background, Carolyn indicated that:

The objective of the Dec. Workshop was to address the question of how to best manage Cedar Pond,

Cedar Pd. had a history of herring running,

Data recording started in 2000, Pond was mainly fresh at that time,

Cedar Pd. is one of our ~~5~~ great ponds,

bathymetric survey indicated little or no oxygen to within 3 FT of surface,

Bottom anoxic with hydrogen sulfide,

Pond now experiences additional tidal inflow increasing salinity, too salty for herring to breed, now a salt pond,

Fresh water draining into the pond from runoff and rain lies on top of the salt water, there is no vertical mixing due to the salt,

reduced salt inflow would allow greater mixing thus reducing the anoxic, high hydrogen sulfide state,

if it were fresh, it would remediate itself & Help Rock Harbor.

Don stated the primary sources of pollution (cormorants, road run-off, septic infiltration) are human caused yet little progress has been made towards their remediation.

Carolyn reviewed the Task Force's attempts to treat the sources with potential success in some areas and no response in others (cormorants). The objective is a "healthy" pond, swimable with at least 5ppm oxygen. Reducing salt water inflow is the best way to do that. She hopes for grant money previously applied for to re-survey pond conditions and provide data to aid in a decision-making. The application is sitting on the Governor's desk.

Dawson indicated he prefers to see if the increased tidal flow the pond now experiences coupled with septic and drain remediation will produce the desired effect. He takes responsibility for the clean-up efforts contributing to that increased flow.

Gilbert would like to put pen boards back and see what happens.

Don said he sees no progress in treating the sources of pollution, indicating the need for a political solution. He said the Task Force was doing its job and the Selectmen needed do likewise to achieve the goal of a healthy pond.

Discussion ended at 7:33PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
David Slack (Acting Secretary)
