

Drinking Water Source Protection Committee

Approved Minutes of Meeting 04/06/09

Members present: Dave Shinnlinger, Chairman; Bob Reagan, Selectman; Edward Berger; John Bergeron, Secretary.

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM by chairman Shinnlinger at the town offices

John explained he was meeting with PSU at 10:30 tomorrow to discuss the SSPP, subcontract, schedule, and sampling methods. It is expected that the SSPP will be signed by PSU tomorrow. They are now interested in working the subcontract document again and indicated rapid approval is at hand. John provided a copy of the SSPP and subcontract which Bob will review prior to his signing.

John provided a two page cover letter which he proposed be mailed to watershed land owners along with several DES fact sheet listed here. The draft cover letter is attached.

Septic Systems

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/ssb/documents/ssb-2.pdf>

Lake Protection

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/bb/documents/bb-9.pdf>

Phosphorus

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/bb/documents/bb-20.pdf>

Soaps

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/bb/documents/bb-54.pdf>

Fireworks

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/bb/documents/bb-60.pdf>

There was discussion of the concept, the cover letter, and a brochure, which Dave plans to develop. Several suggestions were made to improve the cover letter.

Minutes of 02/02/09 were read and approved.

Dave approached Cardigan Mountain School about their matching funds and personnel to do water sampling. Tim Jennings of CMS volunteered to do water sampling and seek funds from CMS.

Bob reported that he and Michael would send a letter to a statewide snowmobile publication and in order to educate drivers about reservoir restrictions. He will also continue to approach Fish & Game about markers on the ice during the winter.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

Respectively submitted,

John Bergeron

Town of Canaan, NH
Water Department
And
Drinking Water Source Protection Committee

Dear Canaan Street Lake Watershed Landowner,

You are receiving this letter because you have property located in the watershed of Canaan's drinking water supply. All properties within this watershed contribute to the contamination entering the lake. Humans and all of nature around us create certain contaminants, which make their way into the water supply. Some watershed properties are near Canaan Street Lake and have an obvious impact on the water supply. While other watershed properties that are further removed, still have an impact. All properties discharge human, animal, plant, and atmospheric water from the land surface to the water table below ground and that water table brings contaminants slowly but surely into Canaan Street Lake.

While we think of septic systems as a sanitary solution, they do discharge contaminants into the water table. Phosphorus is a major risk to the water supply and a primary household source that you can control is automatic dishwashing detergent. Low phosphorous dishwashing detergents are available to reduce your discharge. Older septic systems which are not raised mounds, are poor at removing phosphorus, so most of it goes to the water table and then to the water supply. The use of low phosphorous fertilizers throughout the watershed is important, but especially important if you are near any water including brooks, wetlands, intermittent streams, or the lake. Once phosphorous reaches one of these waterbodies it is generally carried downstream to the lake. Silt and sand contains considerable phosphorus, so try to have vegetation, such as native plants, bushes and/or saplings capture it before it runs into the streams or the lake. However lawns are not a very effective filter, and they attract Canadian Geese producing high phosphorus fecal material.

Contaminates such as wildlife waste products, decaying plant matter, and soil components are washed directly into the lake or gradually moved to the water table and then to the lake. Some earth filtering does take place prior to contaminants entering the water table, and some filtering is performed by a vegetative shoreline, which is what the Comprehensive Shoreland Act is trying to preserve. But salts are generally not filtered at all and salts come from human sources including paved roads, walkways, driveways, water softeners, and septic systems. July fourth brings us fireworks, which are laden with many contaminants. Please try to minimize direct water contact by expended fireworks.

In our water supply, high levels of living and decayed organic matter are the primary problem. And high levels of organic matter are caused by phosphorous, which allows rapid plant and organism growth. Churning of the lake bottom, which is caused by wind, waves, and boat traffic, also increases organic matter levels. When possible it is desirable to minimize high-speed boat traffic near the boundary of the reservoir (southeast cove), as this churns the waters near the drinking water intake pipe. Nature will continue to churn the waters, but we can help by reducing our portion.

Please consider the following:

- Have your septic system cleaned every three years.
- Use low phosphorous dishwashing detergent.
- Avoid domestic animal waste near streams and lake.
- Use low phosphorous fertilizer at minimum application levels.
- Minimize high-speed traffic or boat wakes near the reservoir.
- Allow vegetation to grow near water bodies, which filters stormwater runoff.
- Near the lake, minimize lawns to reduce Canadian Geese fecal matter.

Thank you for your consideration,

Bob Reagan, Chairman
Canaan Water Department

Dave Shinnlinger, Chairman
Drinking Water Source Protection Committee