Message

From: Groff, Kimberly (DEP) [kimberly.groff@state.ma.us]
Sent: 5/22/2018 2:18:20 PM
To: Stephen Silva [steve124@gmail.com]
CC: sara.burns@tnc.org; Burns, David (DEP) [david.burns@state.ma.us]; thamblett@savebay.org; rcalabro@savebay.org; todd.callaghan@state.ma.us; Carey, Richard (DEP) [richard.carey@state.ma.us]; fcornaglia@taunton-ma.gov; scovino@massaudubon.org; kcurry@bridgew.edu; Davis, Daniel (DEP) [daniel.davis@state.ma.us]; cindy.delpapa@state.ma.us; Dore, Bryan [Dore.Bryan@epa.gov]; jfederico@beta-inc.com; jonathan.hobill@state.ma.us; Janik, David (DEP) [david.janik@state.ma.us]; Johnson, Arthur (DEP) [arthur.johnson@state.ma.us]; Johnston, David (DEP) [david.johnston@state.ma.us]; Sue Kiernan [Sue.Kiernan@dem.ri.gov]; Susannah.king@state.ma.us; kolbbh@cdmsmith.com; Langley, Lealdon (DEP) [lealdon.langley@state.ma.us]; Mayor, Anna (DEP) [anna.mayor@state.ma.us]; eivy.monroy@nbep.org; jmorriso@usgs.gov; bnap@srpedd.org; dnorton@cobma.us; coviatt@uri.edu; hricci@massaudubon.org; srichtarik@beta-inc.com; Courtney Schmidt [Courtney.Schmidt@nbep.org]; Elizabeth Scott [elizabeth.scott@dem.ri.gov]; jennifer.sheppherd@state.ma.us; Snook, Hilary [snook.hilary@epa.gov]; aspaetzel@usgs.gov; stoffel@uri.edu; Stover, Toby [Stover.Toby@epa.gov]; Travers, Heidi (DEM) [heidi.travers@dem.ri.gov]; tsullivan@fallriverma.org; darmstro@usgs.gov; douglas.fine@state.ma.us; Robert Brown [robert.brown@state.ma.us]
Subject: RE: Stakeholder Meeting Mount Hope Bay/Taunton River Estuary Monitoring Strategy - May 23rd 2018, MassDEP Worcester Office.

Thank you Steve. We will address you input below. We will be providing a join.me link and call in number. Feel free to join us remotely for all or part of the meeting. Again, thank you for you input. Kim

From: Stephen Silva [mailto:steve124@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2018 9:34 AM
To: Groff, Kimberly (DEP)
Cc: sara.burns@tnc.org; Burns, David (DEP); Topher Hamblett; rcalabro@savebay.org; Callaghan, Todd (EEA); Carey, Richard (DEP); fcornaglia@taunton-ma.gov; scovino@massaudubon.org; kcurry@bridgew.edu; Davis, Daniel (DEP); Delpapa, Cindy (FWE); dore.bryan@epa.gov; jfederico@beta-inc.com; Hobill, Jonathan (DEP); Janik, David (DEP); Johnson, Arthur (DEP); Johnston, David (DEP); sue.kiernan@dem.ri.gov; King, Susannah (DEP); kolbbh@cdmsmith.com; Langley, Lealdon (DEP); Mayor, Anna (DEP); eivy.monroy@nbep.org; jmorriso@usgs.gov; bnap@srpedd.org; dnorton@cobma.us; coviatt@uri.edu; hricci@massaudubon.org; srichtarik@beta-inc.com; courtney.schmidt@nbep.org; elizabeth.scott@dem.ri.gov; jennifer.sheppherd@state.ma.us; snook.hilary@epa.gov; aspaetzel@usgs.gov; stoffel@uri.edu; stover.toby@epa.gov; heidi.travers@dem.ri.gov; tsullivan@fallriverma.org; darmstro@usgs.gov; Fine, Douglas (DEP); Brown, Robert (DEP)
Subject: Re: Stakeholder Meeting Mount Hope Bay/Taunton River Estuary Monitoring Strategy - May 23rd 2018, MassDEP Worcester Office.

Hi Kim,

Thank you for your efforts to develop and implement a monitoring strartegy for the Taunton River Estuary and Mount Hope Bay. Since I can't make the meeting I wanted to pass along my thoughts after reviewing the agenda.

TRWA is planning on continuing its upper watershed monthly monitoring for the foreseeable future. As described on our website http://savethetaunton.org/ we monitor 4 main stem Taunton river locations and 16 tributary locations including the Matfield and Town Rivers just above where they join in Bridgewater to form the Taunton River headwaters. The biggest water quality issues we consistently observe are elevated total phosphorus, very high nitrogen, along with algae and aquatic plant blooms (see photos on website along with our 2016 to present monitoring results).

The Taunton River is effluent dominated from July to October each year hence the requirements MassDEP and EPA included in the reissued watershed permits for WWTPs to reduce TP and nitrogen discharge levels

(compliance schedules attached). Since the nitrogen loading to the Taunton River as evident from our most downstream sampling point at the Berkley/Dighton bridge is so high I suggest MassDEP track and report on its website the TP and Total Nitrogen (nitrate, nitrite, organic nitrogen and ammonia) discharge levels reported in the watershed's seven major WWTP monthly discharge monitoring reports and put the results in a simple Excel tracking table similar to what TRWA uses for its monitoring results reporting on our website on your website. This would provide the ready ability for everyone to compare this major loading source to future ambient monitoring results.

I also want to mention a very important point made by the highly peer reviewed "Narragansett Bay Estuary Program 2017. State of Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed: Summary Report" in the last paragraph on page 9 and first paragraph of page 10. These paragraphs indicate that year to year variation and long-term trends for response indicators such as dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll, and water clarity vary greatly from year to year because of many factors such as precipitation, winds and temperature. Comprehensive monitoring over a number of years will be necessary to identify how the Taunton River Estuary and Mount Hope Bay are responding to treatment plant upgrades and climate change. In other words to be useful the program must be designed and managed as a long term monitoring effort. It would also not be prudent to make significant changes in either water quality standards or pollution loading reduction efforts based on short term monitoring results.

Good luck with the meeting. Let me know if you have any questions.

Steve Silva
Monitoring Program Coordinator
TRWA

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http://savethetaunton.org/

On Thu, May 17, 2018 at 10:26 AM, Groff, Kimberly (DEP) <kimberly.groff@state.ma.us> wrote:

Hello- This is a reminder that we will be holding our next **Mount Hope Bay/Taunton River Estuary Monitoring Strategy Stakeholder** meeting at the ***MassDEP Office in Worcester on May 23rd from 10-3 PM***. Please find the agenda attached and note that an outlook invite was send to this group earlier this week. Please accept the meeting request in outlook that way we can get a head count of attendees.

We look forward to seeing you next week. Kim

Kimberly A. Groff, Ph.D.

Director, Watershed Planning Program

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From: Groff, Kimberly (DEP)
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 1:31 PM
To: 'sara.burns@tnc.org'; 'david.burns@state.ma.us'; 'rcalabro@savebay.org'; 'todd.callaghan@state.ma.us'; 'richard.carey@state.ma.us'; 'fcornaglia@taunton-ma.gov'; 'scovino@massaudubon.org'; 'kcurry@bridgew.edu'; 'daniel.davis@state.ma.us'; 'cindy.delpapa@state.ma.us'; 'dore.bryan@epa.gov'; 'jfederico@beta-inc.com'; 'kimberly.groff@state.ma.us'; 'jonathan.hobill@state.ma.us'; 'david.janik@state.ma.us'; 'arthur.johnson@state.ma.us'; 'david.johnston@state.ma.us'; 'sue.kiernan@dem.ri.gov'; 'susannah.king@state.ma.us'; 'kolbbh@cdmsmith.com'; 'lealdon.langley@state.ma.us'; 'anna.mayor@state.ma.us'; 'eivy.monroy@nbep.org'; 'jmorriso@usgs.gov'; 'bnap@srpedd.org'; 'dnorton@cobma.us'; 'coviatt@uri.edu'; 'hricci@massaudubon.org'; 'srichtarik@beta-inc.com'; 'courtney.schmidt@nbep.org'; 'elizabeth.scott@dem.ri.gov'; 'jennifer.sheppherd@state.ma.us'; 'steve124@gmail.com'; 'snook.hilary@epa.gov'; 'aspaetzel@usgs.gov'; 'stoffel@uri.edu'; 'stover.toby@epa.gov'; 'heidi.travers@dem.ri.gov'; 'tsullivan@fallriverma.org'; 'darmstro@usgs.gov'
Cc: Fine, Douglas (DEP); Brown, Robert (DEP)
Subject: Stakeholder Meeting Mount Hope Bay/Taunton River Estuary Monitoring Strategy - May 23rd 2018, MassDEP Worcester Office.
Importance: High

Hello- We will be holding our next **Mount Hope Bay/Taunton River Estuary Monitoring Strategy Stakeholder** meeting at the ***MassDEP Office in Worcester on May 23rd from 10-3 PM***. This meeting is a follow-up to the February 1st Stakeholder Meeting in Lakeville. Please look for a following-up e-mail with directions, and agenda, and a call in/join.me link next week.

MassDEP is working in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), to develop a water quality monitoring strategy for the Taunton River Estuary and Mount Hope Bay. The goal of this effort is to collaboratively develop a monitoring strategy to assist all of us in answering key water quality questions for this water resource. The area of focus for this project extends from Mount Hope Bay and the Rhode Island border to just above the Taunton WWTP. MassDEP will share ongoing activities for Marine dissolved oxygen (DO) review. We will share our current thoughts on the monitoring strategy and solicit further stakeholder input that will be used to

inform the final plan. Our ultimate goal for this effort is the development of a comprehensive monitoring strategy for the assessment, restoration, and protection of surface waters that we all support and can commit to implementing.

Kimberly A. Groff, Ph.D.

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