

Comments from the 10/21/08 Public Hearing on OI Stormwater Management Plan

The Oak Island Stormwater Management Plan was presented at a public hearing on October 21, 2008 from 6:30 pm until 8:00 at the Oak Island Recreation Center. Presentations were made by Bob Zeid, Chair, Stormwater Advisory Board and John Michaux, Director, Stormwater Department. The meeting was attended by 13 residents. The following is a summary of key points of discussion and questions.

Questions:

1. Is the town going to perform additional monitoring of water quality?
2. While there be a priority to establish sewer along the ocean front properties and reduce the impact of septic on those areas?
3. Is there water quality testing of the aquifer that the town draws from for its drinking water?
4. Is there any recycling and containment in place for electronic equipment, batteries, etc.?
5. The town has SW policies for commercial properties but is there anything like that in place for residential property?
6. Is erosion of the banks to the water a consideration in SW? For example, boat wakes in Davis Canal are eroding the banks causing more sediment to be released. Is there potential to remedy this with beach rock or other material?
7. Are septic systems going to be allowed to double use as a cistern or SW control measure after the sewer expansion is complete?
8. The ditches running up to 40th St. (point discharge) are in need of cleanup. Would the town consider a hotline for ditch cleanup as well as for illicit discharge?

Feedback:

1. There is support for additional water quality monitoring in Davis Canal. If the SW department is too busy perhaps there could be an organized effort among citizens, some who already have experience in these types of programs. This initiative could also be very valuable as an educational tool for students and residents.
2. The town should support the use of indigenous grasses and other plants that do not require as much water. The town could also educate the homeowner on optimizing water use.
3. With respect to reduction of total percent of impervious surfaces for development projects, what is the status of this? Isn't this going to be more compelling once the sewer expansion is complete?
4. Town council should take a kayak trip up Davis Canal to see firsthand what's going on.
5. With respect to street ends, the town cuts down to the water's edge, effectively negating the filtration capacity of the sheet flow discharge. The town needs to develop alternatives; can't be selective or capricious about how they are handled. The concept of adding paths to the water, benches, or other amenities invites people and they typically trash it. One resident would prefer a no-mow zone. He also noted that some trees adjacent to the water could topple over in a storm. He would advocate these be trimmed at the top to reduce their susceptibility to topple but still allows them to perform as windbreaks.
6. Is it possible to use beach rock to line the canal to reduce bank erosion?
7. If the town does decide to plant rain gardens at some street ends there should be an effort to build up the area closest to the water such that it creates a slight dam or weir effect.