

Buckeye Brook Coalition
2013 Annual Report

Summary of watershed council organizational status

Staff names: The BBC has no paid staff members

Board members: Names and town of residence

President:	Paul Earnshaw, Warwick
Vice President:	Michael Zarum, Warwick
Secretary:	Marcia Pena, Warwick
Treasurer:	William Aldrich, Warwick
Member:	Timothy Dean, Warwick
Member:	Timothy Knight, Warwick
Member:	Elaine Papa, Warwick
Member:	Doug Wood, Warwick

Number of organization's members and/or communication network

In 2013 the organization had 25 individual members, 25 family members, 3 organizational members, and a "friends" email list of 199 contacts.

Summary of major issues: Water Quality

The Buckeye Brook Coalition closely follows and advocates for continuous water quality improvements to Buckeye Brook and its adjacent watershed.

The Coalition fully supports the mission of the US Clean Water Act (CWA) and other federal Acts in place to improve water quality as well as the standing and authorities granted to the Coalition under R.I.G.L. § 46-28-8

The Coalition actively participates as an advocate of the brook and watershed to protect, preserve and restore water quality.

A distinction is made between various organizational roles related to water quality: Roles related to government bodies and roles related to the Coalition as a designated local watershed council having § 46-28-8 standing to present testimony on issues impacting water quality`

Law and Policy implementation rest with our legislative bodies: The US Congress, our congressional delegates, the RI General Assembly, and the Warwick City Council.

Oversight for Regulatory Issues and for law enforcement, policy, and administration of programs rests with agencies such as the US Environmental Protection Agency

(USEPA), US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), the RI Coastal Resources Management Council (RI CRMC), and the judicial branch of government.

Our mission is reached in-part by working with and through our legislative, regulatory, and enforcement bodies of government.

In 2013, the BBC continued its working relationships with members of the RI Congressional delegation, members of the RI General Assembly, the Warwick City Council, US EPA, RI DEM, and the RIAC to advocate for limiting pollutant discharges into the watershed in order to protect, preserve and restore the water quality of the Buckeye Brook watershed through various agency programs.

Going forward, the BBC will continue to work with and through members of the above listed legislative bodies and administrative agencies in advocating for protection, preservation, and restoration of the Buckeye Brook watershed.

Our efforts have resulted in much progress to address major sources of pollution and hazardous compounds impacting the Buckeye Brook watershed.

Pollutant Sources:

There are three major sources of pollutants into the watershed

1. TF Green Airport
2. Truk-Away landfill (former)
3. ISDS and other Ground Water Sources

1) TF Green Airport TF Green Airport has a history of releasing de-icing chemicals directly into the watershed through point source discharges. These chemicals are mostly propylene glycol used to de-ice aircraft at the passenger area tarmac, the freight area, and a holding ramp near the approach end of runway 5. The airport also contributes additional contaminants that include chemicals used on runways during inclement winter months, solvents used to de-rubberize runway tire skid deposits, as well as toxic chemicals from maintenance areas.

2) Truk-Away Landfill The former Truk-Away landfill site is the source of many groundwater pollutants that leach with groundwater flowing from the former landfill to the lower elevations of the watershed. Chemical analysis is on file with the RI DEM.

3) ISDS / Other Ground Water Pollution Sources Individual Sewage Disposal Systems (ISDS) and other similar sources leach ground water and coliform contaminants into the watershed lowering dissolved oxygen, harming water quality.

Water Quality - Accomplishments

1) With TF Green Airport, 2012 marked a major milestone year with the issuance of an updated RI Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) permit under federal NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) guidelines. The permit has stipulations specifying limits of point source contaminants, requires the construction of a waste water treatment facility as part of the larger scope for the deicing management system, and requires ongoing water quality monitoring programs through sampling, testing, and reporting as specified within the permit. Concerns remain regarding funding limitations to move forward with the specified deicing management system.

As part of the PVD (Providence) EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) post-ROD (Record of Decision) negotiations between the City of Warwick and the Rhode Island Airport Corporation (RIAC), a final memorandum of understanding (MOU) with community benefits was reached in 2012 which specifies the deicing management system facility be built by 2015. Related to the RIPDES enforcement and other water quality related issues, the BBC was chosen by the City of Warwick to be the Water Quality Liaison (WQL) between RIAC and the City for water quality monitoring programs. Accordingly, during each quarter of 2013 BBC board members have accompanied RIAC environmental employees and / or their agents in order to monitor the sampling being conducted as required under the RIPDES permit.

In addition to the above monitoring, as water quality liaison the BBC provided support to the URI Watershed Watch water quality monitoring programs of drainage coming from the airport. This started with 13 volunteers working in pairs and monitoring six sampling sites. After two informational / training sessions, the first sampling was conducted on November 16, 2013 and sampling is scheduled to continue biweekly. The cost of this effort is being paid for by RIAC as part of its MOU agreement with the City of Warwick, and will continue for seven years. The BBC is providing the volunteer network and earlier in the year participated in finalizing the manual that was developed for the project.

The BBC will continue working with the community, the City of Warwick, URI Watershed Watch and RIAC to reach water quality monitoring, reporting and enforcement goals.

2) With respect to the former Truk-Away Landfill and groundwater contamination, the BBC has formed relationships with EPA site management and the RI DEM (current lead agency) department responsible for remediation at that site. Major contaminants have been identified and "alternatives" for remediation are being developed in working toward selecting a preferred alternative for remediation. Full remediation would include doing more than just covering the area with soil (capping) and would require remediation and solutions to limit leachate flow of contaminants to adjacent watershed and ground water volumes. The BBC supports full remediation at that site. The BBC continues to work with the Warwick City Council in developing a resolution to request General Assembly funding and assurances that the site be fully remediated.

3) With respect to Individual Sewage Disposal Systems (ISDS) and other Ground Water Sources, the BBC recognizes that these systems have limited useful lives and often fail, allowing groundwater contamination to leach into the Buckeye Brook watershed and surrounding bodies of water such as Greenwich Bay and Narragansett Bay.

ISDS systems and related pollutants are regulated under RI law and by the RIDEM, which has ongoing programs in-place to reduce this type of groundwater pollution. The BBC supports the efforts of RI DEM in stepping up its groundwater pollutant reduction programs. The BBC has attended meetings related to this effort, participated in the formulation of policy to ensure programs will be effective, provided comments on planned courses of action and program delivery, and monitored the progress of work to reduce pollution into the watershed. The BBC will continue to advocate for reducing pollution related to ISDS groundwater pollution impacting the watershed.

4) Water Quality Improvement – Other

In addition to the above three major contributors to watershed pollution, other programs continued in 2013 including the 16th Annual Earth Day Clean Up in which local community members volunteer their time and resources to physically collect items deposited in the brook and surrounding areas, removing items such as shopping carriages, tires, bottles, furniture, etc.

Several members of the BBC have initiated a project in cooperation with Save The Bay to place markers on drainage inlets in the watershed that discourage people from dumping there. This project was developed in 2013 and about 200 of the 500 markers obtained were placed that year. The remaining markers will be placed in 2014.

In cooperation with the City of Warwick, the BBC through one of its members is also working on a long term project to reduce storm drain run-off into Warwick Pond. With the hiring of another engineer in the planning department by the City of Warwick, the pace of this project is expected to pick up.

The power point presentation on pollution in Warwick Pond and how to prevent it that was developed by two BBC members continued to be refined in 2013 and was aired before several audiences. Also, more copies of a pamphlet on preventing pollution were produced and distributed at 5 locations in the area.

Summary - Water Quality

2013 was another year of solid accomplishment. The BBC will continue to be a strong advocate for limiting pollutants into the watershed and will seek to improve water quality by working with and through our community as well as with local, state, and federal agencies tasked with regulation and enforcement.

Summary of other activities

The BBC project to reduce the invasive plant species phragmites through a spraying and cutting program in the area of the brook downstream of West Shore Road neared completion in 2013 with the final spraying in the fall and the final cutting to take place in the coming winter. It is hoped that a second phase will follow to monitor the success of the project and to encourage native plants to return.

Under the guidance of RI DEM the 11th annual "direct fish count" was conducted in April and May, involving 22 volunteers. This program involves and educates new people, as well as providing important information on the fish run itself.

In 2013 the coalition continued its participation in URI Watershed Watch's water quality monitoring program which runs from April to October. In December the coalition was awarded a grant from the RI Rivers Council to pay for the inclusion of Knowles Brook in this program.

In June, a canoe and kayak trip with eight participants started at Long Meadow, headed to Rocky Point, and then returned to the Long Meadow put in. The original intention to proceed to Mill Cove was aborted due to unfavorable weather conditions. Also in June, a cultural and history tour was held involving a number of sites in the watershed.

Two paddle maps that in 2012 were installed behind the playground at Conimicut Point Park were vandalized, repaired by the BBC, and vandalized again. In 2014 a more secure arrangement will be attempted. In the meantime, maps are also available online at the ExploreRI website, having been put there with the help of Bruce Hooke at the RI Blueways Alliance.

The BBC also continued its participation in the Herring Alliance which is striving to have the New England Fishery Management Council develop regulations to better protect river herring while they are in the ocean.

The annual meeting was held in March, quarterly board meetings were held throughout the year, and a very successful fundraiser was held in September.

Unfortunately, in 2013 there was no action taken by the U.S. Congress on BBC's application to obtain Wild and Scenic River designation for Buckeye Brook.

Conclusion

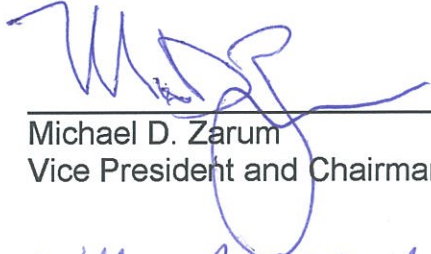
2013 was a busy year and many thanks are due to a number of volunteers who worked hard in support of the goals of the BBC. We will continue to be there to advocate for protection, preservation, and restoration of the Buckeye Brook watershed.

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Attachment I
Treasurers Report for the Buckeye Brook Coalition

BUCKEYE BROOK COALITION			
Treasurer's Report as of			
December 31, 2013			
Opening Balance	Balance as of	01/01/2013	\$13,382.40
		Annual	
		Amounts	
Income			
Memberships		\$1,369.57	
Fundraiser		\$1,310.00	
Donations		\$520.00	
Total Income		\$3,199.57	\$3,199.57
		Annual	
		Amounts	
Expenses			
Memberships in Other Organizations:			
Environment Council of RI		\$50.00	
Federated RI Sportsmen's Clubs		\$50.00	
Save The Bay		\$100.00	
Projects:			
Phragmites Control Project		\$750.00	
Storm Water Drain Project		\$3,500.00	
Annual charge for P.O. Box 9025		\$76.00	
Postage		\$23.00	
Reproduction & Related Costs		\$215.50	
Program Costs:			
Earth Day Cleanup		\$100.00	
Annual Fundraiser		\$107.84	
RI Secretary of State Corporations Fee		\$20.00	
Miscellaneous Costs		\$34.23	
Total Expenses		\$5,036.57	\$5,036.57
Closing Balance	Balance as of	12/31/2013	\$11,552.40
NOTES:			
1) Restricted Funds Included in Opening Balance			
\$700 of the \$5,000 RI Rivers Council Grant received in 2005			
\$300 of the \$500 State of RI Grant received in 2005			
\$5,000 of the \$5,000 Wreck Sewer Authority Education Outreach Grant			
\$6,200 Total Restricted Funds on 1/1/13			
2) Restricted Funds Included in Closing Balance			
\$2,500 of the original \$5,000 Wreck City Grant for Edu'l Pgms & Testing			
3) Available Funds (Balance less Commitments)			
Balance as of 12/31/2013			\$11,552.40
Restricted Funds			-2,500.00
Forecast of Committed Expenses			-652.00
Available Funds 12/31/2013			\$8,200.40
Approved Copy			

The above 2013 Annual Report and Financial Statement of the Buckeye Brook Coalition, a State Designated Watershed Council, is respectfully submitted to the RI Rivers Council by its officers;



Michael D. Zarum
Vice President and Chairman

June 28, 2014
Date



William P. Aldrich
Secretary - Treasurer

June 28, 2014
Date