



Water Entrances And Canal Update

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Introduction

- Recently many boater have noticed significant change in the community.
- Our waterway entrances and canals are filling in quickly.
- We have a record number of boats in the community at this time.
- Many are constantly hitting bottom in new areas.
- Decreased boat usage last year maybe a contributor.
- We have to study this problem hard and work with authorities.
- There is no easy fix. We can help mitigate the problem.



Canal Dredges Facts

- We have had meetings with the State of Delaware, Division of Watershed Stewardship. Jesse Hayden, Engineer Program Manager DNREC
- This group is responsible for waterways management.
- Currently there are NO plans to dredge any canals in any community at this time.
- All of their projects are focused on Navigable Waterways / Channels.
- SKCA is not considered a Navigable Channel. It's considered Private.

Recent DNREC Dredging Project

- Massey's Ditch Project removed approximately 140,000 cubic yards of materials.
- This opened a major water route at a cost of \$3.6 Million Dollars.
- Sediment was good clean sand that could be used to replenish beaches.
- Sand had to be pumped 5 miles to the beaches.
- This is / was the only major dredging project on DNREC's Calendar.

Challenges with Swann Keys Canals and Waterway Entrances

- Our Canals are not considered Channels or Navigable Waterways.
- They are basically considered Private and not a priority for dredging at this time.
- DNREC has identified that Dirickson Creek has issues. (Future Opportunity?)
- Jesse Hayden acknowledged that Development along waterways is a problem.
- Our canals and entrances are not sand. They are sludge with deposits.
- This sludge can not be simply moved to another location.
- There is no place to safely put it.
- It could require the debris to be trucked away to a landfill that would take it.
- No landfills are accepting this type of material at this time.
- This is one of the reasons we can not relocate our Boat Ramps to the Marina.
- One project in Lewes is taking several years just to locate a place to dump.

Our Entrances – Angles of Approach



How to create opportunities to keep waterways open.

- **Create Privately Maintained Channels by installing markers**
- **The markers would be made of plastic pipe – Commercially available**
- **Place markers on both sides of the entrances – with reflectors**
- **Opportunity to “slow boats down” with new No Wake Signs**
- **Forces boats to maintain a specific pattern and decreases angles of attack.**
- **Over time the channel become deeper and the sediment is deposited on the sides.**
- **Does not address the Canal problem behind our homes.**
- **Only addresses the entrances.**

Example of Channel Markers Swann/Blue Teal and Canvasback/Laws



Example of Channel Markers Pintail



How to create opportunities to keep waterways open.

- **Installing Channel Markers must now go through the US Coast Guard**
- **DNREC thought it was a good idea**
- **We are not sure the Coast Guard will agree or approve**
- **WE HAVE TO TRY SOMETHING**
- **The problem has been talked about for years**
- **Like the Boat Ramps – It's time to fix it.**
- **This Board has an opportunity to do something**
- **Cost to install will be minimal**

How about our Canals – Further in

- This is a real issue with no easy solution
- “What goes into the canals, stays in the canals”
- It would cost millions to dredge
- We have to:
 - Stop sediment penetration. - Silt fences on new construction.
 - Repair / Replace failing bulk heads
 - Do not deposit debris or lawn waste in the canals
 - Be sure there are sediment “breaks” ie: no soil close to edges
 - Contact the Department of Sediment Control when you see violations

Next Steps

- The Board will start working with the Coast Guard on options and approval
- Every property owner begin by doing your small part to remediate the problem
- Keep exploring solutions.



Thank You