



Water Entrances And Canal Update

Sunday, July 18, 2021

Presented by: Jeff Markiewicz, President SKCA 2021/2022



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



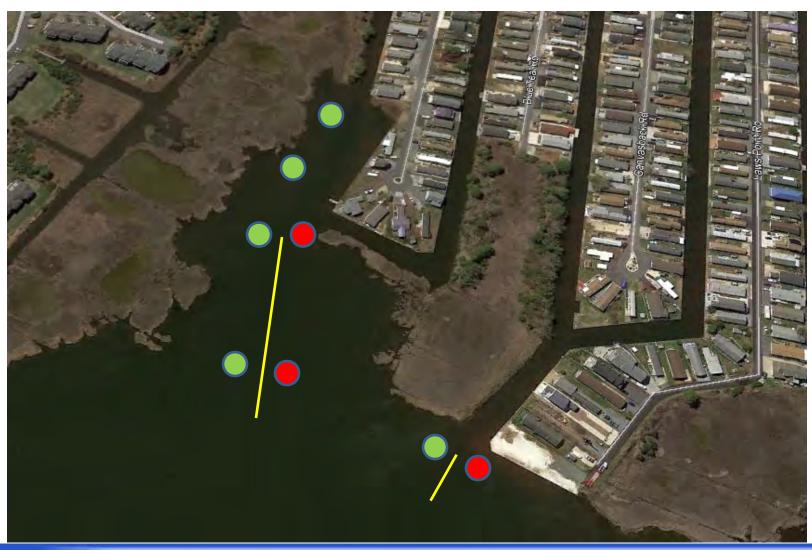


How to create opportunities to keep waterways open.

- 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.

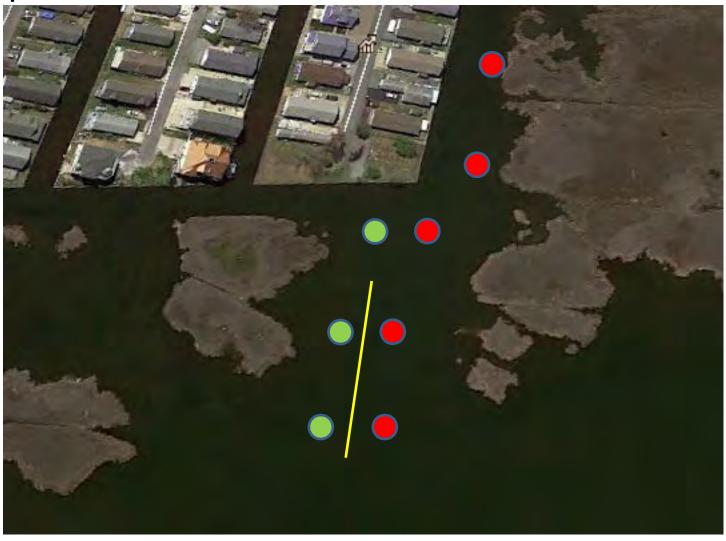


Example of Channel Markers Swann/Blue Teal and Canvasback/Laws





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

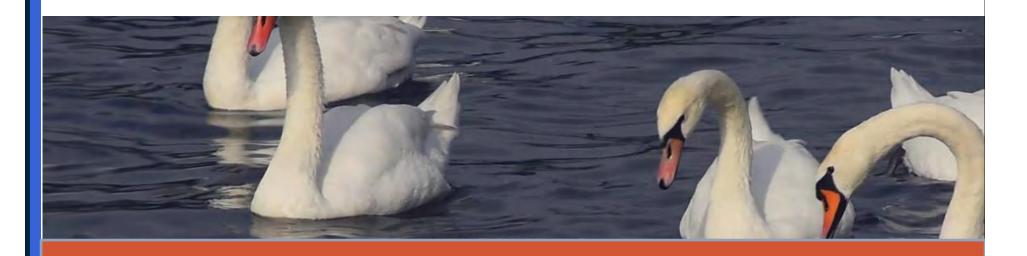
- This is a real issue with no easy solution
- "What goes into the canals, stays in the canals"
- It would cost millions to dredge
- We have to:
 - Stop sediment penetration. Silt fences on new construction.
 - Repair / Replace failing bulk heads
 - Do not deposit debris or lawn waste in the canals
 - 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