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Thank-you and Follow-Up on Bioswale Remediation Questions

1 message

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Good Evening Wetlands Project Team,

Thank-you for yesterday's presentation, with the notable attendance of specialists and decision-makers across many disciplines and agencies. Many Knightsen community members were impressed with the commitment shown by the Wetlands Project Team attending a late night Zoom session that ran long. Many team members were obviously making a genuine effort to address community concerns. I am particularly grateful for the level of detail given to beginning to understand the behavior of the shallow groundwater zone. The shallow zone water level hydrographs with cumulative rainfall were impressive, and discussion of Piper Diagrams was informative. These evaluations should prove helpful to the decision making process.

One of my first questions of the evening seemed to be met with a puzzling amount of project team distress. During the Zoom call we were told that improvement of the quality of water discharging to the Delta was a project objective. Design plans show this "water in need of improvement" being detained in the park property bioswales. Knightsen residents have asked many times over the years specifically what needs to be improved in the bioswale water. Does remediation of this water present health concerns for residents, their gardens, and their animals over the lifetime of this wetland? Will this slow moving water be a source of mosquitos or foul odors? If water is detained on the park property during unusually high rainfall events, will that limit the flow rate along Byron Highway and Delta Road ditches?

Under wet weather conditions, this water in need of improvement is being detained on the land surface of the park property and recharged into the Knightsen community's shallow groundwater zone ... rather than largely flowing to and being diluted by the Delta waters. (my interpretation as described in your project objective). Also notable, the quality of this water is so problematic that its cleanup warrants millions of public project dollars. Yet none of these project dollars have been devoted to identifying what chemicals need to be remediated, the byproducts of this remediation, and any associated health and ecological risks. I hope you can better understand our concern when community members ask specifically what chemicals are involved during the bioswale remedial operations, are there any associated risks, and how will they be remediated prior to percolating into the Knightsen's shallow groundwater zone.

Despite the public repudiation of my use of the word "remediation" in association with bioswales, I stand in good company with Cornell College (see first paragraph of attached article) identifying a bioswale as a "remediation technique" (quote from the attached Cornell Univ article). I understand the word "remediation" can evoke an emotional response the wetlands project team might prefer to avoid, but in the best interests of the Knightsen community, I am compelled to use that term to best describe Knightsen's concerns.

Regards,
Sandra Maxfield

**Tower Road Bioswale Remediation.pdf**

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