

**Town of South Hero
Wastewater Committee
Minutes of a Meeting on March 18, 2024**

Present: Committee members: Peter Zamore, Bob Buermann, Bob Krebs, Sue Arguin, Ross Brown; NRPC: Greta Brunswick, Sara Gratz; Otter Creek: Robert Clark; DEC: Emily Hackett, Achouak Arfaoui; Member of the Public: Joan Falcao

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.

On motion of Bob Buermann and second of Bob Krebs, the minutes of the February 21, 2024 meeting were approved.

The committee then discussed the need for the selectboard to choose the preferred alternative from the options identified in the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER). The PER identifies continuation of individual septic systems as the preferred alternative for Keeler Bay village. For South Hero village, it identifies as options (1) one of more community wastewater systems and (2) a more centralized "package" system with spray disposal of the effluent. The PER identifies the former as the preferred alternative. The committee agreed that these were the preferred alternatives for the two villages.

There was a general discussion concerning the ARPA-related deadlines for various actions. Emily Hackett and Robert Clark indicated that it is likely the \$1.4 million ARPA appropriation (and consequently also the \$700+ thousand CRRP grant) will be withdrawn and allocated to other project(s) better able to meet the ARPA deadlines. Despite this likely outcome, it was agreed that it was appropriate to complete the PER and potentially pursue other actions with costs that are reimbursable under the state revolving fund. This would preserve the results of our work, which could be used if a wastewater project is further pursued in the future.

Bob Buermann described the discussions with the Vermont Land Trust concerning the potential for amendment of the existing conservation easement, to permit use of a portion of the property as a wastewater disposal area.

At its March 25 meeting, Peter Zamore will request the selectboard to identify its preferred alternatives under the PER, and will describe the status of fundraising and discussions with Vermont Land Trust.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.