Huntington River E.coli
A project of the Huntington Conservation Commission

2004 Project Report and Results

by Aaron Worthley, Project Coordinator 1/2005



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Due to the volunteer nature of this project, this summary report is primarily a compilation of other materials that have been written for and about the project. All material was prepared by Aaron Worthley for the Huntington Conservation Commission, project volunteers and the citizens of Huntington. The intention of this report is to have a paper copy of these materials compiled and stored with other HCC materials for future reference.

Project Description

Description of Waters:

The Huntington River is a tributary of the Winooski River. Watershed origins include the towns of Huntington, Hinesburg, Starksboro, Fayston, Duxbury, Bolton, Richmond and Buels Gore, as such reaching three counties within the State of Vermont - Chittenden, Addison and Washington. The main branch of the Huntington River is approximately 18 miles long, from its headwaters in Buels Gore to its mouth at the Winooski River in the village of Jonesville (Richmond), VT. Approximately 10 miles of the river are located within the town of Huntington. The Huntington River is designated by the State of Vermont as Class B water. According to the Vermont Water Quality Standards (effective July 10, 2000) Class B waters should be suitable for, among other uses; aquatic habitat, boating, swimming and public water supply with filtration and disinfection. Escherichia Coli (E.Coli) bacteria level in Class B waters is not to exceed 77 organisms/100ml.

The Huntington River is recognized by the Huntington Town Plan (adopted January 2001) as the most notable surface water feature in the town and is considered by the Huntington Conservation Commission to be of critical importance to the residents and the natural resources of the Town of Huntington. The river is the centerpiece for town settlement and transportation, provides fishing, swimming, boating and scenic beauty to the residents of Huntington, and critical habitat to the wildlife of the town and greater region.

The Huntington River is host to at least eight swimming holes within the town of Huntington alone, frequented by the public during the summer months.

History

In July 2002, the Huntington Conservation Commission conducted limited water quality testing at two major swimming holes along the Huntington River. Results indicated E-Coli bacteria presence greater than 200 organisms/ml, prompting the Commission to continue testing for the remainder of the summer. The samples were analyzed by the Vt. Dept. of Health Lab in Burlington, Vt.

In 2003, the Conservation Commission received a VT DEC Water Quality Division Laboratory Services Grant and was able to expand sampling to include ongoing monitoring of the previously established upstream and downstream locations and add a range of "floating sites" along the river at both predetermined and field determined sites and times to establish a picture of E-Coli levels along the entire river stretch within the Town of Huntington. Results were compared to daily rainfall and charted for the testing period. The data confirm degradation of water quality in the Huntington River and suggest an inverse relationship between E. Coli levels and rainfall, a pattern that may be indicative of contamination from septic systems.

In 2004, again with DEC Laboratory grant funding, the sampling regimen was expanded to include 13 weekly test sites along the length of the river within Huntington. In addition, the mouths of all major tributaries were sampled at least once a month, and numerous floating

sites were used to bracket high readings or narrow down on potential sources of contamination. Sample results continued to be well above recommended levels at certain times. Correlation to rainfall was more difficult in 2004 presumably due to an unusually wet summer. One agricultural site was identified late in the season as a contributing source of e.coli contamination, though not suspected as a major source of season long problems. In that case, the landowner was approached, and measures were taken to exclude livestock from a tributary. Additional sampling in 2005 will hopefully indicate whether this mitigation strategy was successful.

Weekly sample results are distributed to interested citizens through an e-mail distribution list. Additionally, results are posted at the two stores in Huntington and a web site is maintained with all data and analysis

(http://www.gmavt.net/~aaronw/e-coli/2004 home.htm). When high levels merit, postings are placed at popular swimming holes in order to warn the public of potential health risks. Additionally, informational articles are written to provide public education on the program and results and published in the local monthly newspaper- the Times Ink.

Funding

In 2002, funding of a limited number of samples was achieved through the HCC's general fund budget. In subsequent years- 2003 and 2004, funding for sample collection has been through a grant administered by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (Agency of Natural Resources). The grant is specifically for laboratory services to be provided by the Larosa State Laboratory in Waterbury, VT for the purposes of Water Quality Monitoring by volunteer monitoring groups.

See Appendix E- 2004 Grant Application

Involved Parties

Project coordinator: Aaron Worthley, Huntington Conservation Commission Grant Administrator: Neil Kamman, VT DEC Huntington Conservation Commission Members Huntington Health Officer: Dean Grover QA /Sample Transport: Heather Pembrook (DEC employee &

Huntington Resident) Huntington Selectboard

Map of Sample Sites

See appendix A

Description of Sample sites:

Weekly Site Sampling:

Audubon- Hemlock Hole. Across road/ through field from Sugarhouse parking Audubon- Horseshoe Bend. Off rock at swimming hole

Cemetery- Through field across road from cemetery- WALK ON MOWED PATH Bridge Street Bridge. Below bridge East Street Bridge. Below bridge

Spence Bridge. Below Bridge at Spence Road

Brace Bridge. Below Bridge just north of Brace Farm Town Recreation Field. Behind Town Garage- near barbeque grills Shaker Mountain Bridge. Below Bridge to Shaker Mtn Road (Miles Road)

Brent/Hardy Field. Corn fields just north of Alpaca Farm. Park at gate, walk along farm road to river.

Hanksville-Sheldrake Hole. Swimming hole just south of Moody Road Carse Road Bridge. Below bridge at beginning of Carse Road Seven Falls / Hanksville Gorge. Park near guardrail, follow trail to swimming hole

Monthly Brook Sampling:

Sherman Hollow Brook. Mouth of brook at Audubon- below beaver dam Texas Brook. At Main Road bridge- Just North of Texas Hill Road Fargo Brook. East Street- end of pavement. Park at edge of field across from Huntington woods- follow trail

Hollow Brook. Culvert under main road just south of Hollow Road Bushy Brook- Under bridge over main road south of Jubilee Farm Carpenter Brook- Across river south of Shaker Mtn. Road Cobb Brook. Under bridge over Main Road south of Charlie Smith Road Jones Brook. At end of meadow across Carse Bridge Weaver Brook. Across from Bean Road fork

6 Site "floating" Sampling:

Sites To Be Determined as needed

These dates and sites will be determined by Aaron on an as needed basis. Access to these sites will likely require wading up or down river to collect multiple samples over a section of river.

Sample Protocols and Procedures

From Volunteer instruction package:

Procedure:

Pick up Sampling Container the week before

7AM Monday: Take Sample(s)

Deliver to Aaron at the Post Office by 7:20 AM

Driver will deliver to Lab, drop off sample and log sheet

Driver will return with 2nd empty cooler

Timing is VERY important! You must have your sample(s) to Aaron by 7:20 AM so they don't miss their ride to Waterbury. If you cannot keep a scheduled date PLEASE call Wally at least 3 days in advance!

Sampling Guidelines:

Parking: Park off the traveled portion of the road, do not block traffic.

Please be respectful of private property- many of our sample sites are accessed across private property. We have permission to be on site for sample collection only. Walk to the sample site without disturbing the area, collect your sample and leave immediately.

It will be necessary to get your feet wet- so dress appropriately

LABEL YOUR SAMPLE! Write on the bottle label the site name, date and time. It helps to write on the label BEFORE GETTING THE BOTTLE WET.

Get away from shore to collect sample- at swimming holes, collect from swimming area

Collect your sample upstream from where you are standing to avoid contamination. Do not touch the inside of the sample bottle at any time.

Do not uncover the sample bottle until just before filling.

FILL SAMPLE BOTTLE UP TO THE 100ml LINE.

Collect 2 bottles for duplicate sites- from the same spot.

Let people know what you are doing! Inform your friends and neighbors about this project and the water quality in the Huntington River.

Sign up for email notification of weekly results.

- Samples were collected by volunteers weekly, and transported to the laboratory. Sample dates range from the last week in June- last week in September – Approx. 14 weeks.
- 13 regular weekly samples were collected at the 2004 weekly sample sites (13 sites x 14 weeks = **182** samples).
- 7 Major tributaries were sampled at least once a month- Texas Brook, Fargo Brook, Hollow Brook, Bushy Brook, Carpenter Brook, Cobb Brook, Jones Brook (7 sites x 3 months = 21 samples).
- An additional +/- 50 samples were used as Floating Sites throughout the sampling season. These will be used at the discretion of the project manager as conditions merit further investigation. In past years floating sites have been used successfully to narrow down areas of contamination and expand sampling locations.
- Duplicate samples were collected as required for quality control (1 duplicate/10 samples).
- Conductivity, water temperature, and rainfall data were recorded at multiple sites.
- Postings were maintained at swimming holes and public areas as needed.
- Informational articles were written to the local paper updating sample results.
- Work continued with the Huntington Health Officer and the State of Vermont DEC in identifying problem areas and working on mitigation solutions.

Quality Control

Quality assurance and control was primarily orchestrated by the Larosa Laboratory and DEC. An EPA approved QAPP was submitted to DEC prior to beginning of sampling. Duplicate samples were collected at a rate of approximately 1 dup/10 samples for quality assurance use in the laboratory. The local QA official and project coordinator reviewed results and data for consistency and accuracy.

Results

See Appendix B- 2003 and 2004 e.coli results
See Appendix C- discussion of Brushy
Brook E.coli

Meetings with VT DEC

The HCC met with Neil Kamman of VT DEC on a couple of occasions during the calendar year 2004 to discuss sample results and next steps. The following points summarize the outcomes of these meetings:

- Additional data is necessary
- DEC will likely list the Huntington River as impaired during the next listing round (2006)- assuming another season of similar sample results.
- Ground water monitoring stations located in the Lower Village could be a helpful additional data source. This could help determine if contamination is traveling underground from failing septic systems.
- Surfactant and detergent testing could also be beneficial to identify contamination source.
- DNA analysis of e.coli was discussed.
 This has been successfully completed at other locations, and will be considered

for the future. Estimated cost around \$10.000.

- Foundation for a Sustainable Future expressed interest in contributing to the E.coli project in Huntington.
- River volume will be measured through use of a permanent gauge stake starting in 2005.
- Dean Grover will research surfactant testing and detection.
- Neil Kamman will look into a state owned drill rig for ground water wells (none is available).

Data Analysis

See appendix D- Times Ink Article and Appendix B- Sample Results

At the time of this writing, analysis of the collected data is officially inconclusive. Further data collection will continue. Study of results by Vermont DEC scientists will hopefully take place in the next calendar year, with more conclusive analysis resulting.

The Project Coordinator and the Huntington Conservation Commission have developed the following hypothesis based on our review of the data:

There appears to be an inverse relationship between e.coli levels in the Huntington River and recorded precipitation (rain) in the area. This is to say that when rain levels are low the e.coli levels appear to rise, while during wet periods the e.coli levels decrease. Exceptions to this are during the early and late portions of the sample season when water temperature is lower.

It is assumed that when precipitation is high, contaminants are washed off the surface of the ground, into waterways that feed the Huntington River. Additionally, when rain increases, so does the amount of water carried by the River, resulting in dilution of contamination already in the river water. However, when precipitation is low, contamination is more likely to be entering surface water from constant groundwater sources such as septic systems that inadequately treat effluent prior to release. Low precipitation also results in lower water levels in the river and a likely greater concentration of contaminants.

Based on these assumptions and review of the data collected, we presume most of the high e.coli counts recorded are a result of sub-surface contamination reaching the river through groundwater infiltration. Failing septic systems are the obvious and most likely source.

Conclusions

Further study and data collection is warranted.

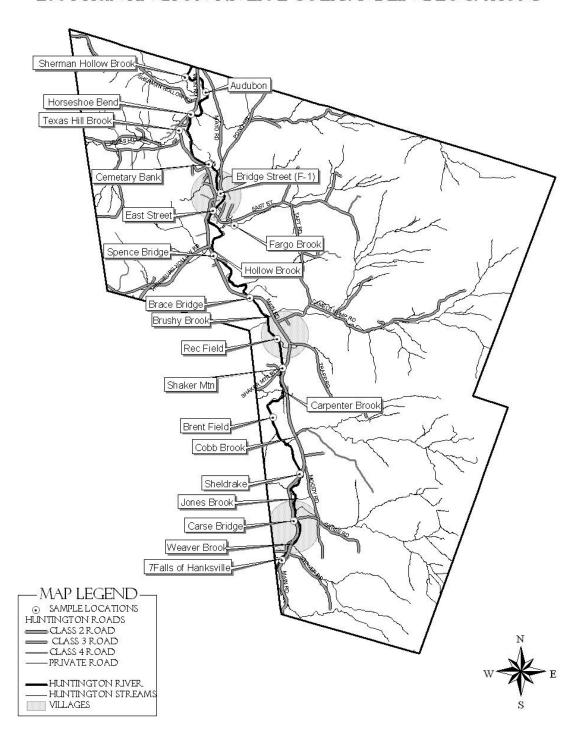
2005 Program

The HCC will apply for another Lab Services Grant from VT DEC in 2005. The sampling protocols and sites will follow much the same as 2004.

The HCC has purchased and will install a permanent stream gauge to measure relative water levels.

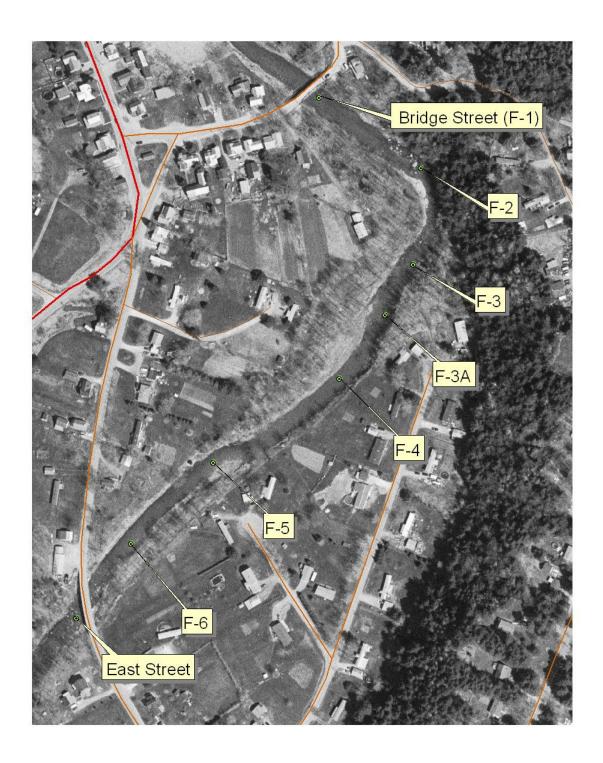
APPENDIX A:

2004 HUNTINGTON RIVER E-COLI SAMPLING LOCATIONS

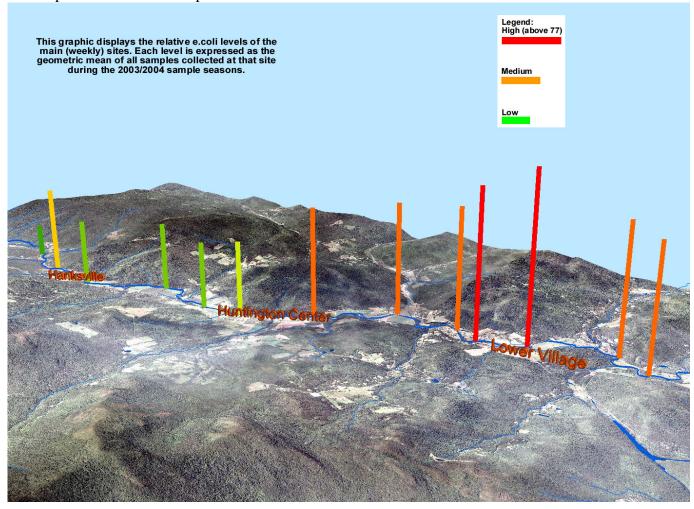


Appendix A (2)

Floating sites in Lower Village

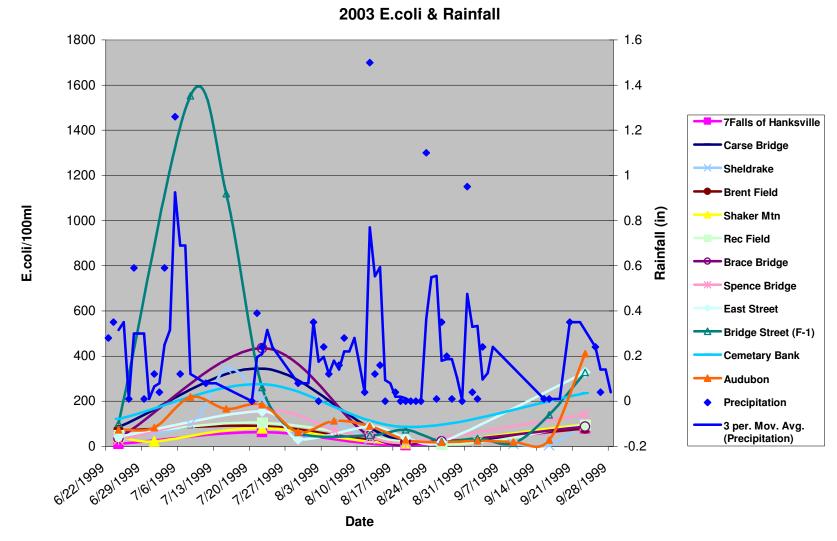


Appendix B Sample Results/Data Compilations/Result Charts



2003 E.coli Sample Results- yellow cells are over state limit of 77

| TFalls of Hanksville | ID | LOCATION | 6/25 | 7/2 | 7/9 | 7/16 | 7/23 | 7/30 | 8/6 | 8/13 | 8/20 | 8/27 | 9/3 | 9/10 | 9/17 | 9/24 |
|--|----|----------------------|------|-----|--------------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|
| 3 | 1 | 7Falls of Hanksville | 12 | | | | 64 | | | | 5 | | | | | 79 |
| A Brent Field 70 91 20 | 2 | Carse Bridge | 86 | | | | 345 | | | | 23 | | | | | 96 |
| A Brent Field 70 91 20 | 3 | Sheldrake | 47 | | 98 | 345 | 210 | 38 | 99 | 34 | 23 | 20 | 23 | 12 | 6 | 99 |
| Rec Field | 4 | | 70 | | | | 91 | | | | 20 | | | | | 79 |
| Recording Sepence Bridge 29 | 5 | Shaker Mtn | 41 | 23 | | | 81 | | | | 14 | | | | | 98 |
| September Bridge 29 | 6 | Rec Field | 51 | | | | 104 | | | | | 10 | | | | 96 |
| String Street | 7 | Brace Bridge | | | | | 435 | | | 47 | | 23 | | | | 88 |
| 10 | 8 | | | | | | | | 72 | | | | | | | 141 |
| 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 328 |
| 12 | | | | | 1553 | 1120 | | 62 | | 49 | | 23 | 36 | 14 | 140 | 328 |
| 14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 236 |
| 15 | | | 74 | 84 | | | 185 | | 113 | 91 | 30 | 18 | 26 | 20 | 28 | 411 |
| 15 F-3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 F-4 to 17 F-5 Bridge St. 517 649 44 | | F-3 East St. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | | | | | | | | 44 | | | | | | | | |
| 20 Sherman Hollow Brook 91 | | | | | 387 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Texas Hill Brook 649 | | | | | | | 222 | | | 68 | | 30 | | 18 | | 326 |
| 22 Fargo Brook 32 32 32 32 32 32 32 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 F-7 24 F-8 F-F11 25 F-9 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 5 | | | | | | 649 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 F-8 F-F11 East St. 19 19 10 10 10 10 10 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 46 |
| 24 F-8 East St. 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 F-9 to Fargo Brook 39 58 59 58 59 59 59 59 5 | | Γ-0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 27 F-11 58 59 59 59 59 59 59 59 | | F-9 to | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 28 F-3A 59 96 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 F-18 96 | 27 | F-11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 Smith Pond 236 30 30 32 Brushy Brook 32 Brushy Brook 33 Cobb Brook 34 Jones Brook 5 35 Weaver Brook 35 Weaver Brook 36 F-12 F12-F15 37 F-13 Bridge St. 38 F-14 to 28 39 F-15 Cemetary 37 40 BB FEL 41 BB 1 Brushy Brook 42 BB 2 Upstream 41 BB 1 Brushy Brook 42 BB 2 Upstream 41 BB 1 Brushy Brook 42 BB 2 Upstream 43 BB 1 Brushy Brook 44 BB 1 Brushy Brook 45 BB 2 Upstream 46 BB 1 Brushy Brook 47 BB 1 Brushy Brook 48 BB 2 Upstream 49 BB 2 Upstream 40 BB FEL BB 1 Brushy Brook 40 BB FEL BB 2 Upstream 40 BB FEL BB 2 Upstream 41 BB 1 Brushy Brook 42 BB 2 Upstream 44 BB 1 Brushy Brook 45 BB 2 Upstream 46 BB 1 Brushy Brook 47 BB 1 Brushy Brook 48 BB 2 Upstream 47 BB 1 Brushy Brook 48 BB 2 Upstream 48 BB 2 Upstream | | | | | | | | 59 | 00 | | | | | | | |
| 31 | | | | | | | | | 96 | | 000 | | | | | |
| 32 Brushy Brook 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 33 | | | | | 1 | | | | - | | | | | | | |
| 34 Jones Brook 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 35 Weaver Brook 1 | | lones Brook | | | 1 | | | | - | | Ü | 2 | | | | |
| 36 F-12 F12-F15= 23 23 28 33 F-13 Bridge St. 28 28 39 F-15 Cemetary 37 F-15 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 37 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 37 F-13 Bridge St. 38 F-14 to 28 39 F-15 Cemetary 37 40 BB FEL 41 BB 1 Brushy Brook 42 BB 2 Upstream 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| 38 F-14 to 28 39 F-15 Cemetary 37 37 37 40 BB FEL 41 BB 1 Brushy Brook 42 BB 2 Upstream 1 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| 39 F-15 Cemetary 37 40 BB FEL | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| 40 BB FEL BB= | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 41 BB 1 Brushy Brook 2 2 4 42 BB 2 Upstream 1 1 | | PR EEI | | | | | | | | | | 31 | 1 | | | |
| 42 BB 2 Upstream 1 | | BB= | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Drusily brook | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Opstream | | | | | | | | | | | ' | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 45 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



2004 E.coli Sample Results

Huntington River E.coli 2004

Result over 235 (EPA swimming standard)

Result over 77 (State of Vermont swimming standard)

| WEEK | LY S | SITES |
|------|------|-------|
|------|------|-------|

| WEEKLY SILES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|-------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Site_Name | 21-Jun-04 | 28-Jun-04 | 6-Jul-04 | 12-Jul-04 | 19-Jul-0 | 4 26-Jul-04 | 2-Aug-04 | 9-Aug-04 | 17-Aug-0 | 4 23-Aug-04 | 1 30-Aug-04 | 7-Sep-04 | 13-Sep-04 | 20-Sep-04 | 27-Sep-04 | Geometric Mean |
| 7 Falls | 21 | 13 | 155 | 34 | 71 | 34 | 24 | 14 | 36 | 22 | 47 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 4 | 18.889 |
| Audubon Hemlock | 78 | 19 | 816 | 50 | 517 | 48 | 204 | 36 | 75 | 23 | 261 | 28 | 20 | 16 | 11 | 60.157 |
| Audubon Horseshoe | 113 | 43 | 649 | 39 | 488 | 26 | 192 | 30 | 105 | 22 | 150 | 24 | 31 | 25 | 10 | 60.840 |
| Brace Bridge | 55 | 25 | 548 | 46 | 326 | 49 | 53 | 31 | 50 | 17 | 93 | 727 | 23 | 26 | 11 | 58.762 |
| Brent Field | 57 | 26 | 365 | 56 | 186 | 88 | 33 | 17 | 25 | 19 | 44 | 14 | 20 | 11 | 14 | 36.303 |
| Bridge Street | 72 | 18 | 579 | 45 | 308 | 47 | 141 | 23 | 61 | 93 | 194 | 40 | 45 | 13 | 13 | 60.486 |
| Carse Bridge | 28 | 6 | 261 | 45 | 194 | 52 | 83 | 19 | 39 | 86 | 122 | 40 | 11 | 23 | 27 | 43.286 |
| Cemetery | 71 | 25 | 461 | 50 | 299 | 42 | 111 | | 56 | 33 | 248 | 23 | 365 | | 13 | 76.063 |
| East Street | 50 | 17 | 816 | 50 | 240 | 72 | 104 | 39 | 93 | 60 | 326 | 37 | 28 | 24 | 23 | 67.121 |
| Rec Field | 34 | 17 | 727 | 60 | 299 | 39 | 62 | 25 | 34 | 17 | 108 | 19 | 18 | 14 | 9 | 40.355 |
| Shaker Mountain | 36 | 47 | 517 | 52 | 160 | 50 | 39 | 17 | 34 | 16 | 109 | 17 | 21 | 15 | 4 | 36.792 |
| Sheldrake | 73 | 13 | 261 | 30 | 93 | 64 | 24 | 12 | 50 | 18 | 126 | 26 | 21 | 19 | 4 | 33.000 |
| Spence Bridge | 166 | 63 | 866 | 44 | | 80 | | 31 | 51 | 56 | 124 | 135 | 34 | 20 | 13 | 65.613 |

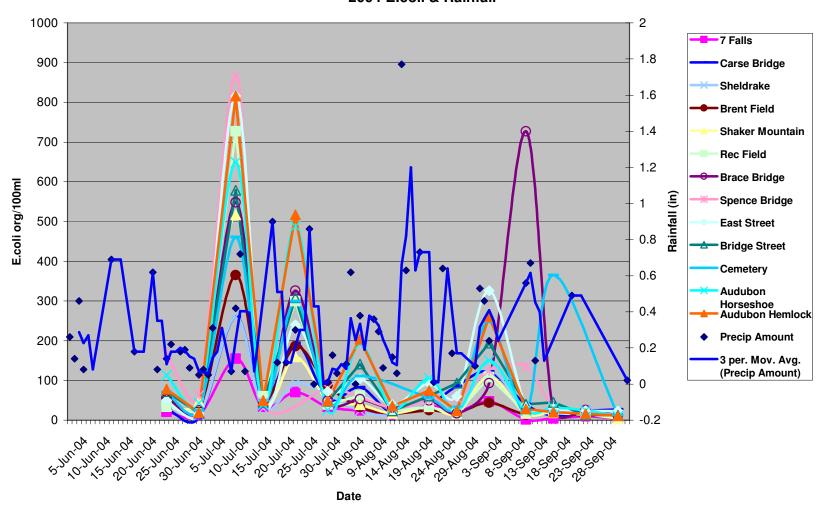
BROOK MOUTHS

| BROOK WOUTHS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Site_Name | 28-Jun-04 | 6-Jul-04 | 12-Jul-04 | 26-Jul-04 | 2-Aug-04 | 17-Aug-04 | 30-Aug-04 | 7-Sep-04 | 13-Sep-04 | 20-Sep-04 | 27-Sep-04 | |
| Brushy Brook | | | | | 54 | | 435 | 411 | 31 | 39 | 8 | 67.356 |
| Carpenter Brook | 42 | 201 | | 517 | 46 | 45 | 127 | | • | | | 102.318 |
| Cobb Brook | 1 | | | 16 | | | 34 | | | | | 8.163 |
| Fargo Brook | 9 | | 36 | 44 | | | 248 | | | | 14 | 34.587 |
| Hollow Brook | 162 | | | 77 | | | 82 | | | | 18 | 65.505 |
| Jones Brook | 7 | | | 6 | | | 26 | | | | 10 | 10.222 |
| Sherman Hollow Brook | | 816 | | 30 | | | | | | | 32 | 92.184 |
| Texas Brook | | 58 | | 35 | | | 34 | | | | 7 | 26.364 |
| Weaver Brook | 11 | | | | | | | | | | | 11.000 |

FLOATING SITES

| Site_Name | 28-Jun-04 | 6-Jul-04 12-Jul-04 | 26-Jul-04 | 2-Aug-04 | 30-Aug-04 | 7-Sep-04 | 13-Sep-04 | 20-Sep-04 | 27-Sep-04 | |
|----------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Brushy Taft Bridge | 15 | | | | | 14 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 8.119 |
| Brushy Taft Culvert | | | | | | | 1730 | 1410 | 98 | 620.627 |
| Carpenter Brook Upstream | | | | 33 | 45 | | | | | 38.536 |
| F2 | 22 | 60 | 70 | | | | | | 16 | 34.870 |
| F3 | 15 | 46 | 68 | | | | | | 20 | 31.124 |
| F4 | 12 | 84 | 60 | | | | | | 28 | 36.074 |
| F5 | 18 | 68 | 83 | | | | | | 20 | 37.755 |
| F6 | 16 | 55 | 79 | | | | | | 14 | 31.409 |
| Fargo Taft Road | | | 38 | | | | | | | 38.000 |
| Sherman Hollow Brook Upper | | 37 | 44 | | | | | | | 40.348 |
| Worthley Pond | | | | | | | 179 | | | 179.000 |

2004 E.coli & Rainfall



2003 All Data – All Sites

| Main Sites | Huntington River E.coli Data 20 | | 2lul-03 | 9101-03 | 16lul-03 | 23lul-03 | 30lul-03 | 6-Aug-03 | 13-Aug-03 | 20-Aug-03 | 27-Aug-03 | 3-Sen-03 | 10-Sen-03 | 17-Sen-03 | 24-Sen-03 |
|---------------|---|----------------|----------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Wall Stee | 1 7 Falls 2 Carse Bridge | 12 86 | 2 00. 00 | | | 64 345 | | _ | | 5 23 | _ | | | • | 79 96 |
| | 3 Sheldrake 4 Brent Field 5 Shaker Mountain | 47 70 41 | 23 | 98 | 345 | 210 91 81 | 38 | 99 | 34 | 23 20 14 | 20 | 23 | 12 | 6 | 99 79 98 |
| | 6 Rec Field 7 Brace Bridge | 51 36 | 23 | | | 104 435 | | | 47 | 14 | 10 23 | | | | 96 88 |
| | 8 Spence Bridge 9 East Street | 29 44 | | | | 161 155 | 33 | 72 | 41 88 | 17 40 | 20 | | | | 141 328 |
| | 10 Bridge Street 11 Cemetery | 101 122 | | 1553 | 1120 | 261 276 | 62 | | 49 | 73 86 | 23 | 36 | 14 | 140 | 328 236 |
| | 12 Audubon Horseshoe 13 Audubon Hemlock | 74 | 84 | 219 | 276 167 | 222 185 | 64 | 113 | 68 91 | 30 | 30 18 | 26 | 18 20 | 28 | 326 411 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BROOK MOUTH | HS 05 Brushy Brook | | | | | | | | | 12 | | | | | |
| 1 | 04 Carpenter Brook 03 Cobb Brook | | | | | | | | | 5 | | | | | |
| 1 | 07 Fargo Brook 06 Hollow Brook 02 Jones Brook | | | | | | | | | 30 | 2 | | | | 46 |
| 1 1 | 09 Sherman Hollow Brook 08 Texas Brook | | | | 91 649 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 01 Weaver Brook | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| FLOATING SITE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 209 Brushy Taft Bridge 210 Brushy Taft Culvert | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 208 Carpenter Brook Upstream 201 F2 202 F3 | | | 1046 579 | 1990 1300 | | 64 64 | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 203 F4 204 F5 | | | 613 517 | 866 649 | | 56 44 | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 205 F6 206 Fargo Taft Road 207 Sherman Hollow Brook Upper | | | 387 | 517 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 211 Worthley Pond 212 Smith Pond | | | | | | | | | 236 | | | | | |
| 2 | 213 F-12 214 F-13 | | | | | | | | | | 23 28 | | | | |
| 2 | 215 F-14 216 F-15 217 BB FEL | | | | | | | | | | 28 37 | 1 | | | |
| 2 | 218 BB 1 219 BB 2 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 1 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Other Data

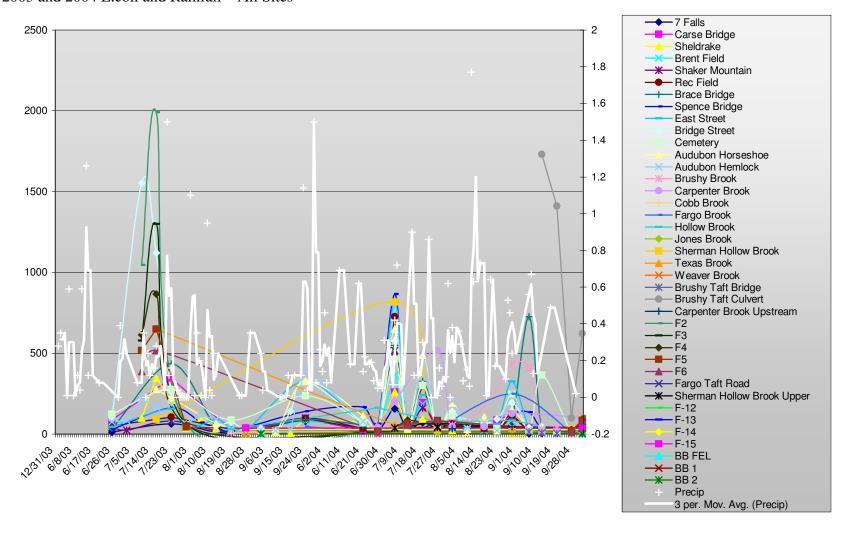
Water Temp- Sheldrake Water Temp- Village Water Temp- Horseshoe Conductivity- Sheldrake Conductivity- Village Conductivity- Horseshoe

Water Temp-BrushyTaft Conductivity-BrushyTaft Water Temp-BrushyCulvert Conductivity-BrushyCulvert Water Temp-Brushy Conductivity-Brushy

2004 All Data – All Sites

| | Huntington River E.coli Data 2 | 003-2004 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Main Sites | 1 7 Falls 2 Carse Bridge 3 Sheldrake 4 Brent Field 5 Shaker Mountain 6 Rec Field 7 Brace Bridge 8 Spence Bridge 9 East Street 10 Bridge Street 11 Cemetery 12 Audubon Horseshoe 13 Audubon Hemlock | 21-Jun-04 21 28 73 57 36 34 55 166 50 72 71 113 78 | 28-Jun-04 13 6 13 26 47 17 25 63 17 18 25 43 | 6-Jul-04 155 261 261 365 517 727 548 866 816 579 461 649 816 | 12-Jul-04 34 45 30 56 52 60 46 44 50 45 50 39 50 | 19-Jul-04 711 194 93 186 160 299 326 240 308 299 488 517 | 26-Jul-04 34 52 64 88 50 39 49 80 72 47 42 26 48 | 2-Aug-04 24 83 24 33 39 62 53 104 141 111 192 204 | 9-Aug-04 14 19 12 17 17 25 31 31 39 23 | 17-Aug-04 36 39 50 25 34 50 51 93 61 56 105 75 | 23-Aug-04 22 86 18 19 16 17 17 56 60 93 33 22 23 | 30-Aug-04 47 122 126 44 109 108 93 124 326 194 248 150 261 | 7-Sep-04 2 40 26 14 17 19 727 135 37 40 23 24 28 | 13-Sep-04 4 11 21 20 21 18 23 34 28 45 365 31 20 | 20-Sep-04 10 23 19 11 15 14 26 20 24 13 25 16 | 27-Sep-04 4 27 4 14 4 9 11 13 23 13 13 10 11 |
| BROOK MOU | THS 105 Brushy Brook 104 Carpenter Brook 103 Cobb Brook 107 Fargo Brook 106 Hollow Brook 102 Jones Brook 109 Sherman Hollow Brook 108 Texas Brook 101 Weaver Brook | | 42 1 9 162 7 | 201 816 58 | 36 | | 517 16 44 77 6 30 35 | 54 46 | | 45 | | 435 127 34 248 82 26 | 411 | 31 | 39 | 8 14 18 10 32 7 |
| FLOATING SI | TES 209 Brushy Taft Bridge 210 Brushy Taft Culvert 208 Carpenter Brook Upstream 201 F2 202 F3 203 F4 204 F5 205 F6 206 Fargo Taft Road 207 Sherman Hollow Brook Upper 211 Worthley Pond 212 Smith Pond 213 F-12 214 F-13 215 F-14 216 F-15 217 BB FEL 218 BB 1 219 BB 2 | | 15 22 15 12 18 16 | 37 | 60 46 84 68 55 | | 70 68 60 83 79 38 44 | 33 | | | | 45 | 14 | 7 1730 179 | 3 1410 | 8 98 16 20 28 20 14 |
| Other Data | Water Temp- Sheldrake Water Temp- Village Water Temp- Horseshoe Conductivity- Sheldrake Conductivity- Village Conductivity- Horseshoe Water Temp-BrushyTaft Conductivity-BrushyTaft Water Temp-BrushyCulvert Conductivity-BrushyCulvert Water Temp-Brushy Conductivity-Brushy Conductivity-Brushy | 11.4 128.7 | 12.3 13.6 12.9 114.7 137.4 147 | | 16.8 17.5 17.3 107.5 118 123 | 18.6 17.8 76.5 80 | 16.5 15.8 114.1 126.8 | 18.2 121 | 13.6 14 127.5 133.1 | 15.2 15.5 83.5 87.5 | 12.6 13.8 84.8 91.5 | 18.5 18.5 75.5 85.8 | 16.1 91.4 121 | 15.2 13.8 92.1 102 | 8.4 7.4 109.7 115.1 | 9.5 11.1 142.6 144.1 10.2 54.7 11.9 325 9.4 63.1 |

2003 and 2004 E.coli and Rainfall - All Sites



| Precip | oitation- 20 | 003 and 20 | 04; Reco | rded by Joh | n Hadde | n, East Stree | et, Hunti | ngton, VT | | | |
|---------|--------------|------------|----------|-------------|---------|---------------|-----------|-----------|------|---------|------|
| 1 | | 7/11/03 | ? | 8/23/03 | | 6/3/04 | 0.08 | 7/16/04 | | 8/28/04 | 0.53 |
| | | 7/12/03 | 0.24 | 8/24/03 | 0.01 | 6/4/04 | | 7/17/04 | 0.12 | 8/29/04 | 0.46 |
| date | precip | 7/13/03 | 0.12 | 8/25/03 | 0.01 | 6/5/04 | | 7/18/04 | | 8/30/04 | 0.24 |
| 5/31/03 | 0.28 | 7/14/03 | | 8/26/03 | | 6/6/04 | | 7/19/04 | 0.3 | 8/31/04 | |
| 6/1/03 | 0.35 | 7/15/03 | 0.16 | 8/27/03 | | 6/7/04 | | 7/20/04 | | 9/1/04 | |
| 6/2/03 | | 7/16/03 | 0.28 | 8/28/03 | | 6/8/04 | | 7/21/04 | | 9/2/04 | |
| 6/3/03 | | 7/17/03 | | 8/29/03 | 0.35 | 6/9/04 | 0.69 | 7/22/04 | 0.86 | 9/3/04 | |
| 6/4/03 | 0.01 | 7/18/03 | | 8/30/03 | | 6/10/04 | | 7/23/04 | 0 | 9/4/04 | |
| 6/5/03 | 0.59 | 7/19/03 | | 8/31/03 | | 6/11/04 | | 7/24/04 | Ü | 9/5/04 | |
| 6/6/03 | | 7/20/03 | 0.04 | 9/1/03 | | 6/12/04 | | 7/25/04 | | 9/6/04 | |
| 6/7/03 | 0.01 | 7/21/03 | 1.5 | 9/2/03 | | 6/13/04 | | 7/26/04 | 0.01 | 9/7/04 | 0.56 |
| 6/8/03 | | 7/22/03 | 0.12 | 9/3/03 | 0.24 | 6/14/04 | 0.18 | 7/27/04 | 0.16 | 9/8/04 | 0.67 |
| 6/9/03 | 0.12 | 7/23/03 | 0.16 | 9/4/03 | 0.04 | 6/15/04 | 0.10 | 7/28/04 | 0.06 | 9/9/04 | 0.13 |
| 6/10/03 | 0.04 | 7/24/03 | ? | 9/5/03 | 0.01 | 6/16/04 | | 7/29/04 | 0.00 | 9/10/04 | 0.15 |
| 6/11/03 | 0.59 | 7/25/03 | • | 9/6/03 | | 6/17/04 | | 7/30/04 | 0.11 | 9/11/04 | |
| 6/12/03 | | 7/26/03 | 0.04 | 9/7/03 | | 6/18/04 | 0.62 | 7/31/04 | 0.62 | 9/12/04 | |
| 6/13/03 | 1.26 | 7/27/03 | ? | 9/8/03 | | 6/18/04 | 0.08 | 8/1/04 | 0 | 9/13/04 | |
| 6/14/03 | 0.12 | 7/28/03 | ? | 9/9/03 | | 6/20/04 | 0.00 | 8/2/04 | 0.38 | 9/14/04 | |
| 6/15/03 | | 7/29/03 | ? | 9/10/03 | | 6/21/04 | 0.14 | 8/3/04 | 0.50 | 9/15/04 | |
| 6/16/03 | | 7/30/03 | ? | 9/11/03 | | 6/22/04 | 0.22 | 8/4/04 | | 9/16/04 | |
| 6/17/03 | | 7/31/03 | ? | 9/12/03 | ? | 6/23/04 | 0.22 | 8/5/04 | 0.36 | 9/17/04 | 0.49 |
| 6/18/03 | | 8/1/03 | 1.1 | 9/13/03 | ? | 6/24/04 | 0.18 | 8/6/04 | 0.29 | 9/18/04 | 0.47 |
| 6/19/03 | 0.08 | 8/2/03 | 1.1 | 9/14/03 | • | 6/25/04 | 0.19 | 8/7/04 | 0.09 | 9/19/04 | |
| 6/20/03 | | 8/3/03 | 0.01 | 9/15/03 | 0.01 | 6/26/04 | 0.09 | 8/8/04 | 0.07 | 9/20/04 | |
| 6/21/03 | | 8/4/03 | 0.35 | 9/16/03 | 0.12 | 6/27/04 | 0.07 | 8/9/04 | 0.15 | 9/21/04 | |
| 6/22/03 | | 8/5/03 | 0.2 | 9/17/03 | 0.12 | 6/28/04 | 0.05 | 8/10/04 | 0.06 | 9/22/04 | |
| 6/23/03 | | 8/6/03 | 0.01 | 9/18/03 | | 6/29/04 | 0.08 | 8/11/04 | 1.77 | 9/23/04 | |
| 6/24/03 | | 8/7/03 | 0.01 | 9/19/03 | 0.12 | 6/30/04 | 0.05 | 8/12/04 | 0.63 | 9/24/04 | |
| 6/25/03 | | 8/8/03 | ? | 9/20/03 | 0.12 | 7/1/04 | 0.31 | 8/13/04 | 0.03 | 9/25/04 | |
| 6/26/03 | | 8/9/03 | 0.95 | 9/21/03 | | 7/2/04 | 0.51 | 8/14/04 | | 9/26/04 | |
| 6/27/03 | | 8/10/03 | 0.04 | 9/22/03 | 0.12 | 7/3/04 | | 8/15/04 | 0.73 | 9/27/04 | |
| 6/28/03 | ? | 8/11/03 | 0.01 | 9/23/03 | 1.14 | 7/4/04 | | 8/16/04 | 0.73 | 9/28/04 | |
| 6/29/03 | 0.39 | 8/12/03 | 0.01 | 9/24/03 | 1.14 | 7/5/04 | 0.07 | 8/17/04 | | 9/29/04 | 0.02 |
| 6/30/03 | 0.24 | 8/13/03 | 0.24 | 9/25/03 | 0.04 | 7/6/04 | 0.42 | 8/18/04 | 0.01 | 9/30/04 | 0.02 |
| 7/1/03 | | 8/14/03 | | 9/26/03 | 0.04 | 7/7/04 | 0.72 | 8/19/04 | 0.01 | 7/30/04 | |
| 7/2/03 | | 8/15/03 | | 9/27/03 | | 7/8/04 | 0.07 | 8/20/04 | 0.64 | | |
| 7/3/03 | | 8/16/03 | | 9/28/03 | 1.5 | 7/9/04 | 0.07 | 8/21/04 | 0.04 | | |
| 7/4/03 | | 8/17/03 | | 9/29/03 | 0.08 | 7/10/04 | | 8/22/04 | 0.17 | | |
| 7/5/03 | | 8/18/03 | | 12/31/03 | 0.00 | 7/11/04 | | 8/23/04 | 0.17 | | |
| 7/6/03 | | 8/19/03 | | 5/30/04 | | 7/12/04 | | 8/24/04 | | | |
| 7/7/03 | 0.08 | 8/20/03 | | 5/31/04 | 0.26 | 7/13/04 | | 8/25/04 | | | |
| 7/8/03 | | 8/21/03 | | 6/1/04 | 0.20 | 7/14/04 | 0.9 | 8/26/04 | | | |
| 7/9/03 | | 8/22/03 | | 6/2/04 | 0.14 | 7/15/04 | 0.9 | 8/27/04 | 0.1 | | |
| 7/10/03 | 0.35 | 0/22/03 | | 0/2/04 | 0.40 | //13/04 | 0.12 | 0/2//04 | 0.1 | | |

Huntington River e.coli, January 2005 Appendix B

Appendix C

From: Aaron Worthley [aaronw@gmavt.net] Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2004 8:29 AM

Subject: Brushy Brook e.coli To: E.coli Information List Members

Re: recent E.coli in Brushy Brook & Tributary

Hello everybody,

I am getting a number of questions about the high e.coli numbers in the tributary to Brushy Brook. I thought I would send this out to the whole list to inform everybody at once.

The tributary we have been testing runs under the Camels Hump Road just below the Taft's Sugarhouse. It then skirts along the edge of their new barnyard, through a part of their pasture and under the road again just uphill from the "Taft" Bridge. The samples are taken at the outflow of the culvert just above the bridge.

As you may or may not know, Tim Taft is a member of the Huntington Conservation Commission. Both he and his wife Margaret have been very much a part of our e.coli investigation. Margaret is also one of our weekly sample volunteers.

I began testing the sites at Taft Bridge and at the tributary a few weeks ago. During our regular monthly sampling of stream mouths, the site at the Brushy Brook/Main Road bridge was running high. The following week I tested at the next bridge upstream (Taft) and again at the Main Road bridge. The Taft site was very low, and the Main Road was high. Assuming that the contamination source was between the two bridges, I took the next logical step and tested the tributary that runs through the pasture and enters Brushy Brook downstream from the Taft Bridge.

As we know, this site tested quite high. Through all this I have been in touch with Tim and Margaret. My first and most immediate concern was that I had seen cows standing in and along the banks of the tributary as it runs through the pasture. This situation was fixed right away- Tim put up a fence that keeps the cows away from the brook. He also added a water source at the other end of the pasture so they would not continue to hang out near the brook.

As part of their new barn construction, the Taft's have been installing a federally designed runoff management system. This system will handle rainwater runoff from the barn roofs, the barnyard area and the silage storage areas. The final components of this system are still under construction. It is possible that disturbance during construction of theses systems has contributed to the recent high e.coli counts. Tim invited me for a tour of the farm's runoff systems and it is quite impressive. As these systems continue to come on line, I expect we will see further improvement of the water quality in the area. I am pleased to say the Tafts have been very responsive and willing to make changes to eliminate potential sources of contamination that may originate on their farm.

For the last couple of weeks, the samples taken on Brushy Brook have been low, while the tributary continues to be high. There isn't much water in the little stream to dilute the contamination, and it appears not to be continually affecting downstream areas of Brushy Brook or the Huntington River.

IMPORTANT: Based on the data we have collected over the last 2 years, I <u>do not</u> believe this stream is a major contributor to the e.coli presence in the Huntington River. Our data still indicates to me that septic systems, particularly in the concentrated villages, will prove to be the single biggest piece of this puzzle.

Let me know if you have any further questions.

Aaron

Appendix D

E.coli Article, 2004
The Times Ink! Of Richmond and Huntington

by Aaron Worthley, Huntington Conservation Commission

The summer of 2004 has been much different than the past couple of years in many ways, most notably due to rain, rain and more rain. However, the Huntington Conservation Commission and a dedicated band of volunteers have continued data collection and study on the E.coli levels in the Huntington River.

E.coli is a type of bacteria that originates in the intestines of mammals and birds. While some strands of the E.coli bacteria can make humans sick, it is not always the case. E.coli is best used as an indicator of water pollution from fecal sources. Presence of E.coli in water tells us that fecal material from deer, beavers, geese, humans, livestock dogs or any other animal is entering the watercourse and there is potential for the water to contain any number of pathogens- organisms that might make you sick.

For the third year in a row, the Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC) has been sampling the Huntington River and having the samples analyzed for the presence of E.coli bacteria. The lab work this year and last is being paid for by a grant from the State of Vermont, Department of Environmental Conservation.

This year a more extensive sampling regimen has been adopted. The HCC has enlisted volunteers to take weekly samples at 13 sites along the River throughout the town of Huntington. Many of the sites are at popular swimming holes. In addition, the mouths of all major brooks are sampled monthly and other "floating sites" are used to narrow in on areas of higher pollution.

Last year many sites on the River were very contaminated, well above levels for swimming recommended by either the State of Vermont (77 organisms/100ml of water, the State of Vermont has the most stringent standard in the country) or the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (235 organisms/100ml of water). The data we collected led to the hypothesis that the main cause of the pollution in the River was failing or poorly performing septic systems. This suspicion was reached based on two factors. 1. The highest E.coli counts were centered in the populated village centers. 2. The E.coli levels went up with LOWER rainfall.

When the beaches in Burlington and Colchester are closed due to E.coli it is usually associated with HIGH rainfall events, not low. So what is different in Huntington? E.coli pollution can come from many sources, but it is always a result of fecal material reaching the waterway. During heavy rains pet, livestock and waterfowl waste is washed off the surface of the land and/or sewage disposal facilities overflow into the water. During dry periods, steady sources of contamination such as from leaking septic systems will build up in the water, increasing the concentration of E.coli. When it rains, this concentrated bacteria is diluted again, bringing the levels back down.

This year the E.coli levels seem to be a bit lower than last year. We haven't seen the sample results reach into the thousands, but they are still hitting 500 (organisms/100ml of water) on some days.

The correlation with rainfall has been a bit more difficult this year because, as we all know, it really hasn't stopped raining all summer. We will know more when the summer sampling season is complete and we have had a chance to analyze all the data.

The big question, of course, is "What do we do about it so we can all get back to swimming safely?" The HCC is working closely with the Huntington Health Officer and the Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) on designing further studies and plans for what to do to clean up the River. The most important component is continued testing. The HCC intends to continue sampling the River and posting the results so river users can make informed decisions about swimming risks.

It is likely that with another year of similar data the Huntington River will be added to the listing of Impaired Waters for the State of Vermont. This will bring more attention to the cause and the State will be required to develop a plan for cleaning up the River. Federal EPA money could also become available through this listing. The list of impaired waters is long though, and it could be years before the Huntington River gets its turn in the DEC line up. Impaired water status will also give the health of the River more attention during the issuance of environmental permits for discharges that might affect the river's water quality. Meanwhile, the HCC will continue to collect data, educate river users and look for alternative ways to bring our river back to the clean, safe, high quality river we all expect it to be.

In addition to further E.coli sampling, other techniques being explored by the HCC and our partners include: drilling groundwater monitoring wells in the village, testing the river for phosphorus and nitrogen, looking for evidence of detergents in the water and DNA analysis of E.coli to distinguish the source animal.

Weekly E.coli results are distributed by email to anyone interested, send requests to aaronw@gmavt.net. Results and more information are also posted at the two stores in Huntington and online at: http://www.gmavt.net/~aaronw/e-coli/2004 home.htm. Further questions can be directed to: Aaron Worthley, aaronw@gmavt.net, 434-7012.

Appendix E: 2004 Grant Application

Huntington, Vermont Conservation Commission Application for Laboratory Services Grant for Water Quality Monitoring March 2004

Proposal respectfully submitted by:

Aaron Worthley

Project Contact and Chair, on behalf of the Huntington Conservation Commission

950 Bert White Road Huntington, VT 05462

Tel. (802) 434-7012 Fax (802) 434-2102

E-mail <u>aaronw@gmavt.net</u>

INTRODUCTION

The Town of Huntington, through the Huntington Conservation Commission, submits this application to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Water Quality Division for a 2004 Laboratory Services Grant to assist the Town in continuing and expanding E-Coli water quality testing in the Huntington River.

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT WATERS

The Huntington River is a tributary of the Winooski River. Watershed origins include the towns of Huntington, Hinesburg, Starksboro, Fayston, Duxbury, Bolton, Richmond and Buels Gore, as such reaching three counties within the State of Vermont - Chittenden, Addison and Washington. The main branch of the Huntington River is approximately 18 miles long, from its headwaters in Buels Gore to its mouth at the Winooski River in the village of Jonesville (Richmond), VT. Approximately 10 miles of the river are located within the town of Huntington. The Huntington River is designated by the State of Vermont as Class B water. According to the Vermont Water Quality Standards (effective July 10, 2000) Class B waters should be suitable for, among other uses; aquatic habitat, boating, swimming and public water supply with filtration and disinfection. Escherichia Coli (E-Coli) bacteria level in Class B waters is not to exceed 77 organisms/100ml.

The Huntington River is recognized by the Huntington Town Plan (adopted January 2001) as the most notable surface water feature in the town and is considered by the Huntington Conservation Commission to be of critical importance to the residents and the natural resources of the Town of Huntington. The river is the centerpiece for town settlement and transportation, provides fishing, swimming, boating and scenic beauty to the residents of Huntington, and critical habitat to the wildlife of the town and greater region. The Huntington River is host to at least eight swimming holes within the town of Huntington alone, frequented by the public during the summer months.

2. DATA NEEDS AND USAGE

The Conservation Commission has conducted sampling programs along the Huntington River for two seasons – 2002 and 2003, last year documenting E-coli levels of 84 – 1990 organisms/ml at twenty different locations along the river, well in excess of the VT Water Quality and Department of Health Standards. Contaminated sites include well-used swimming areas for local residents. Additional sampling is needed to further document water quality problems and help determine the source(s) of contamination.

Previous Sampling History

In July 2002, the Huntington Conservation Commission conducted water quality testing at two major swimming holes along the Huntington River. Results indicated E-Coli bacteria presence greater than 200 organisms/ml, prompting the Commission to continue testing for the remainder of the summer. During most of the summer, results continued to be higher than those recommended by the VT Department of Health for swimmable water. In 2003, the Conservation Commission received a VT DEC Water Quality Division Laboratory Services Grant and was able to expand sampling to include ongoing monitoring of the previously established upstream and downstream locations, and add a range of "floating sites" along the river at both predetermined and field

determined times to establish a picture of E-Coli levels along the entire river stretch within the Town of Huntington (Attachments A and B). Results were compared to daily rainfall and charted for testing period (Attachment C). The data confirm degradation of water quality in the Huntington River and suggest an inverse relationship between E. Coli levels and rainfall, a pattern that may be indicative of contamination from septic systems. However, insufficient samples were collected to confirm this, or identify potential sources of contamination for mitigation.

Proposal:

The Huntington Conservation Commission, together with the Town Health Officer proposes a project to continue E-Coli monitoring in the Huntington River for the 2004 summer season. The proposed project builds upon the testing done during the 2002 and 2003 seasons and data will be used by the Commission to 1) provide reliable information for posting notices of E-Coli levels and warnings to swimmers in areas of higher-than-swimmable levels of E-Coli bacteria; and 2) narrow down areas of contamination, identify potential sources, and mitigate impacts.

The Town Heath Officer has the authority to test residential septic systems for compliance with state regulations if water quality problems are suspected. If a residential septic system is suspected as a source of high E-Coli levels in the river, the Huntington Selectboard will be asked to authorize the Health Officer to conduct a septic evaluation of the suspect system, and to request any required mitigation. If another source is identified, such as farm run-off or aquatic mammal populations, the Huntington Conservation Commission will work with landowners or the town government to identify and mitigate the source within the laws and regulations of the State of Vermont and the Town of Huntington.

3. SAMPLE COLLECTION METHODS AND PROGRAM

The Huntington Conservation Commission members, along with volunteers, will collect water samples at public or permitted access points along the Huntington River. All sampling, sample transport, data collection and management, data analysis and reporting will be coordinated by the Project Manager. The Huntington Town Health Officer will assist with sample site selection and mitigation efforts. The Project Manager will train all volunteers in sample collection methods in compliance with a standard EPA quality assurance plan.

The Conservation Commission proposes the following sampling regimen:

- Samples will be collected by volunteers every Wednesday morning, and transported to the laboratory by a Huntington resident (Heather Pembrook). Sample dates will range from the last Wednesday in June- last Wednesday in September 14 weeks.
- 10 regular weekly samples will be collected at approximately even intervals along the river within Huntington corresponding to last years 10 monthly sites (10 sites x 14 weeks = **140 samples**).
- 7 Major tributaries will be sampled once a month- Texas Brook, Fargo Brook, Hollow Brook, Bushy Brook, Carpenter Brook, Cobb Brook, Jones Brook (7 sites x 3 months = **21 samples**).
- An additional **50 samples** will be used as Floating Sites throughout the sampling season. These will be used at the discretion of the project manager as conditions merit further investigation. Last year floating sites were used successfully to narrow down areas of contamination and expand sampling locations.
- Duplicate samples will be collected as required for quality control.
- Postings will be maintained at swimming holes and public areas as needed.
- Informational articles will be written to the local paper updating sample results (at least 2 articles were published during the 2003 season, see Attachment C).
- Daily temperature and rainfall will again be collected for analysis.

- Technical assistance will be sought in setting up a water volume measurement station on the river. This data will be recorded on sample days.
- Work will continue with the Huntington Health Officer and the State of Vermont DEC in identifying problem areas and working on mitigation solutions.

This sampling routine will result in a minimum of 161 samples and a maximum of 211 samples, plus quality control samples, throughout the sample season (Late June - Late September).

4. DESCRIPTION OF DATA REPORTING:

Data will be collected and compiled by the Project Manager. Data results for each sample will be entered into a Microsoft Excel format Spreadsheet. Data (Sampled E-Coli levels) will be recorded by site name and date. Additionally, rainfall totals, river volume and high temperatures will be entered for each day during the sample season as recorded by daily by a Huntington resident. An ESRI ArcView map will be prepared by the Project Manager which will detail sample locations with links established to the corresponding data in the Excel Spreadsheet. When and if necessary, postings will be placed at sample sites with a known history of recreational use warning of elevated levels of E-Coli bacteria presence. Postings will also be placed when and if necessary at public posting locations in town, including the two general stores. An internet web site (http://www.gmavt.net/~aaronw/e-coli/results.htm) and community e-mail list was developed in 2003 in order to efficiently inform interested persons of weekly sample results. This site and list will continue to be maintained on a weekly basis. If it is determined by the Conservation Commission, the Project Manager, or the Health Officer that further public notification is necessary, such information will be sent to the community newspaper The Times Ink, and potentially to the Burlington Free Press for posting.

Upon completion of the sampling season and final compilation of data, a full report will be made to the people of the Town of Huntington by the Conservation Commission and the Health Officer in the form of an article in <u>The Times Ink</u>, and a report in the Huntington Annual Town Report, 2004. Additionally, all data will be summarized in a paper report that will go on file with the Huntington Conservation Commission report materials in the Huntington Town Office.

5. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES:

It is the intention of the Huntington Conservation Commission to implement the goal in the Huntington Town Plan to work to maintain the Class B Water Quality Status of the Huntington River. It is the mission of the Huntington Conservation Commission to protect and enhance the natural resources of the Town of Huntington. We believe that further rigorous testing of the Huntington River for levels of E-Coli Bacteria, and our plan to identify and mitigate sources of such contamination is consistent with both of these directives.

Additional anticipated outcomes of this project could include one or more of the following:

- Residents of the Town of Huntington and other users of the recreational resources provided by the Huntington River are warned of potential health risks during periods of high E-Coli contamination.
- Seasonal sampling results in the identification of one or more residential septic systems, agricultural operations and/or naturally occurring sources as contributing to a decrease in water quality in the Huntington River, and mitigation solutions are researched, discussed and implemented.
- 3. Seasonal sampling results indicate no cause for concern with normal and acceptable levels of

- E-Coli bacteria detected. Residents of the Town of Huntington and other recreational users of the Huntington River are reassured as to the high water quality in the Huntington River.
- Seasonal sampling is inconclusive for the cause or source of E-Coli bacteria in the Huntington River. 2004 data is recorded and a program of further sampling is implemented for the 2005 season.
- 5. Seasonal sampling results in suspected sources of contamination, mitigation is attempted with unknown results, and further sampling is implemented for the 2005 season to reassess water quality in the Huntington River.

6. PARTIES INVOLVED AND PROJECT CONTACT(S)

Project Sponsor: Huntington Conservation Commission

Project Manager: Aaron Worthley, Chair Huntington Conservation Commission, GIS/field

technician for Arrowwood Environmental, Huntington, VT.

Project Participants: Huntington Health Officer, Member of the Huntington Conservation Commission, Other Community Volunteers to sample and transport samples to testing facility. Huntington Resident and VT. State Employee, *Heather Pembrook* has volunteered to transport samples to the LaRosa Laboratory in Waterbury, VT. Wallace Jenkins, project volunteer coordinator; Heather Pembrook QAQC officer.

Contact: *Aaron Worthley* (see cover for complete contact information) Tel (802) 434-7012

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- A 2003 Huntington River E. Coli
- B Sample Site Map
- C Average E.coli with Daily Rainfall
- D E.coli Report Published in the *Times Ink* (local paper)

E-COLI WARNING

Recent water tests of the Huntington River at this location by the Huntington Conservation Commission have shown E-Coli Bacteria counts above acceptable swimming levels set by the Vermont Department of Health.

The most recent test at this site shows E-Coli counts **NOT** suitable for swimming.

The State of Vermont warns against swimming in waters with a count of 77 or higher. At a count of 77, the health risk is six swimmers becoming ill per 1000. If the E. coli count is higher, the risk will be proportionately higher. Types of illness can include gastrointestinal and eye, ear, nose and throat infections. Symptoms of illness may be fever, upset stomach, sore throat, earache, chest cold, itchy or watery eyes.

Sample results for this and other Huntington River sites are available at Beaudry's and Jacques Stores, or at

http://www.gmavt.net/~aaronw/e-coli/2004_home.htm

Further testing is being conducted by the Huntington Conservation Commission. For more information contact Aaron Worthley at 434-7012

Appendix G Volunteer Calendar

| Sample Site | 6/21 | 6/28 | 7/6 | 7/12 | 7/19 | 7/26 | 8/2 | 8/9 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| green=duplicate sample (2 bottles) | Yellow=volunteer sample | needed | | | | | | |
| 7 Falls- Hanksville | Nirmegh | Rob Zimmerman | Wally Jenkins |
| Carse Road Bridge | Nirmegh | Ryan Elliot | Wally Jenkins |
| Sheldrake Swimming Hole | Nirmegh | Ryan Elliot | Wally Jenkins |
| Brent Field | Amy Dohner | Rob Zimmerman | Amy Dohner |
| Shaker Mountain Bridge | Amy Dohner | Rob Zimmerman | Amy Dohner |
| Rec. Field | Alan Homans | Margaret Taft |
| Brace Bridge | Alan Homans | Margaret Taft |
| Spence Bridge | Robin Worn | Robin Worn | Robin Worn | Robin Worn | Robin Worn | Robin Worn | Robin Worn | Robin Worn |
| East Street Bridge | Heather Pembrook | Heather Pembrook | Mike Early | Mike Early | Nirmegh | Heather Pembrook | Heather Pembrook | Heather Pembrook |
| Bridge Street Bridge | Heather Pembrook | Heather Pembrook | Mike Early | Mike Early | Nirmegh | Heather Pembrook | Heather Pembrook | Heather Pembrook |
| Cemetary (Fecteau) | Dean Grover | David Brautigam | Mike Early | Mike Early | Nirmegh | Dean Grover | Mike Early | Mike Early |
| Horseshoe Bend | Audubon | Audubon | Audubon | Audubon | Audubon | Audubon | Audubon | Audubon |
| Audubon Hemlock | Audubon | Audubon | Audubon | Audubon | Audubon | Audubon | Audubon | Audubon |
| Sherman Hollow Brook | | Audubon | | | | Audubon | | |
| Texas Brook | | Alan Homans | | | | Alan Homans | | |
| Fargo Brook | | David Brautigam | | | | Peter Jenkins | | |
| Hollow Brook | | Alan Homans | | | | Alan Homans | | |
| Bushy Brook | | Margaret Taft | | | | Margaret Taft | | |
| Carpenter Brook | | Nirmegh | | | | Nirmegh | | |
| Cobb Brook | | Nirmegh | | | | Nirmegh | | |
| Jones Brook | | Ryan Elliot | | | | Ryan Elliot | | |
| Weaver Brook | | | | | | | | |
| Floating #1 | | Aaron |
| Floating #2 | | Heather Pembrook | | | | Heather Pembrook | Heather Pembrook | Heather Pembrook |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Post Warnings | | Linda Riscutto/Wally |
| DRIVE to Waterbury | Heather Pembrook | Heather Pembrook | Padraic Monks | Padraic Monks | Padraic Monks | Heather Pembrook | Heather Pembrook | Heather Pembrook |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

| Sample Site | 8/17 | 8/23 | 8/30 | 9/7 | 9/13 | 9/20 | 9/27 |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| green=duplicate sample (2 bottles) | | | | | | | |
| 7 Falls- Hanksville | Wally Jenkins |
| Carse Road Bridge | Wally Jenkins |
| Sheldrake Swimming Hole | Wally Jenkins |
| Brent Field | Amy Dohner |
| Shaker Mountain Bridge | Amy Dohner |
| Rec. Field | Margaret Taft |
| Brace Bridge | Margaret Taft |
| Spence Bridge | Robin Worn |
| East Street Bridge | Heather Pembrook | Dean Grover | Heather Pembrook |
| Bridge Street Bridge | Heather Pembrook | Dean Grover | Heather Pembrook |
| Cemetary (Fecteau) | Nirmegh | Nirmegh | Dean Grover | Mike Early | Mike Early | Mike Early | Mike Early |
| Horseshoe Bend | Audubon |
| Audubon Hemlock | Audubon |
| Sherman Hollow Brook | | | Audubon | | | | Audubon |
| Texas Brook | | | Alan Homans | | | | Mike Early |
| Fargo Brook | | | Peter Jenkins | | | | Mike Early |
| Hollow Brook | | | Alan Homans | | | | Alan Homans |
| Bushy Brook | | | Margaret Taft | | | | Alan Homans |
| Carpenter Brook | | | Nirmegh | | | | Nirmegh |
| Cobb Brook | | | Nirmegh | | | | Nirmegh |
| Jones Brook | | | Ryan Elliot | | | | Ryan Elliot |
| Weaver Brook | | | | | | | |
| Floating #1 | Aaron |
| Floating #2 | Heather Pembrook | | Heather Pembrook |
| Post Warnings | Linda Riscutto/Wally |
| DRIVE to Waterbury | Heather Pembrook | Padraic Monks | Heather Pembrook |
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