

MaryJane Shimsky

Majority Whip, Legislator, 12th District
Chair, Committee on Public Works



Committee Assignments:
Appointments
Environment, Health & Energy
Law & Major Contracts
Legislation
Parks, Planning & Economic Development
Public Safety
Seniors & Constituencies
Social Services

MEMORANDUM

TO: Benjamin Boykin, Chair, Board of Legislators
FROM: MaryJane Shimsky, Legislator – 12th District
DATE: August 13, 2019
RE: New York City Water Trail Association (NYCWTA)/“Citizens Water Quality Testing (CWQT) Week 12—Results”/August 9, 2019/Rob Buchanan

Please add the attached *article* to the Environment, Health & Energy and Public Works agendas.

Citizens Water Quality Testing (CWQT) Week 12—Results

Rob Buchanan
August 9, 2019

Another bad week thanks to a very rainy Wednesday (1.18 inches in Central Park). Still waiting for Newtown Creek and some central East River sites to report, plus a few in South Brooklyn, but otherwise you can see our all-sites results page [here](#)¹ and our individual site tables the map interface [here](#)².

SAMPLER OF THE WEEK: John Ribaldo

A lot of CWQT regulars were on vacation this week so John, a Hunter College student and a summer Research Associate Technician at Billion Oyster Project, took on multimodal task of collecting six samples, all before work. Herewith his account:



At 5:50 on Thursday morning, I took a bus over to Shell Road, the site I sample at in Coney Island Creek.

¹https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15YG38IrV5_8DixLXBiAd0ZesVXriNi8yq9SWmogkj8/edit#gid=0

²http://www.nycwatertrail.org/water_quality.html



I then took the train and a bus to the Brooklyn Navy Yard, where I'd left my bike, and dipped a bottle off the dock in Wallabout Channel.



After an arduous bike ride across the Williamsburg Bridge, I hopped over the railing at Stuyvesant Cove to grab a third sample.



I then cycled down to the East River Esplanade to the Battery Maritime Building, where I took the ferry to Governors Island, so I could collect a sample off of Pier 101 (the place the Harbor School moors its boats, and also the site of free weekend kayaking offered by the Downtown Boathouse).



Then it was back on the ferry to grab two Hudson River samples.



Both sites, Pier 66 and Gansevoort Peninsula, require lowering sampling bottles into the water by string, which I had forgotten. My inner MacGyver kicked in, and I unlaced my boots, knotted them together, and tied a two-turns-and-two-half-hitches to secure the bottle to my laces. Swoosh! My laces smelled a little funny afterwards, but anything for citizen science.



Give that man an ice pack!

WEEKLY SLIDE SHOW



Raritan River sampling crew in action at Ken Buchanan Park in Sayreville, NJ



The same crew at the lab (Interstate Environmental Commission on Staten Island).



Ira Gershenhorn's sample at West 145th St.



Anybody know what the boom is for?



Kewpie the water testing dog at Gantry State Park in Long Island City.

The Citizens Water Quality Testing Program (CWQT) is a collaboration between the New York City Water Trail Association, The River Project, 10 partner labs and dozens of volunteer samplers, with support from Riverkeeper, The Nature Conservancy, the Billion Oyster Project and the Lily Auchincloss Foundation. Thanks all for your interest and support!