

**From:** Jake Jacobs jakejacobs1919@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Re: Why is the City of Jacksonville Not Dealing With the Hogpen Creek Problem?  
**Date:** April 21, 2026 at 23:02

**To:** Steve Proctor steve.proctor@proctorace.com

**Cc:** Amaro, Ken - City Council Office KAmaro@coj.net, MGay@coj.net, jpeluso@coj.net, allwetsports@aol.com, jmbarker2470@gmail.com, bbirtalan@bellsouth.net, hardesty@jaxlegal.com, rickhartleyjax@gmail.com, jchmoney1@gmail.com, markbdev@aol.com, Dean.Black@flhouse.gov, mayordonnadeegan@coj.net, rdiamond@coj.net, NHowland@coj.net, TFreeman@coj.net, RSalem@coj.net, MCarlucci@coj.net, ChrisMiller@coj.net, WLahnen@coj.net, JoeCarlucci@coj.net, TClarkMurray@coj.net, AriasR@coj.net, KCarrico@coj.net, MBoylan@coj.net, RGaffneyJr@coj.net, JPittman@coj.net, RandyWhite@coj.net, Rahman@coj.net, MSConner@coj.net, nsickler@coj.net, casmira@jaxtoday.org, jessica@jaxtoday.org, newstips@news4jax.com, news@actionnewsjax.com, newstips@jacksonville.com, tips@jaxtrib.org, news@duvaltimes.com, JFreePress@aol.com, afosmoe@gmail.com, news@firstcoastnews.com, AskAnthony@firstcoastnews.com, jpalombo@wjct.org, crawford2@firstcoastnews.com, pamela@residentnews.net, aaustin@firstcoastnews.com, sdishon@firstcoastnews.com, agonzalez1@firstcoastnews.com, calfree@firstcoastnews.com, rphillips1@firstcoastnews.com, news@pontevedrarecorder.com, cburgess@firstcoastnews.com, news@unfspinnaker.com, zwilcox@firstcoastnews.com, tips@unfspinnaker.com, editorial@jaxdailyrecord.com, team@folioweekly.com, editor@beachesleader.com, editor@unfspinnaker.com, Joelle.Balotin@amerisbank.com, news@jaxtoday.org, aaron@farseekerrealty.com, estopo@bellsouth.net, rceconnolly@gmail.com, ryan.paul.michael.adams@gmail.com, cj@nomadjax.com, AGadd@conciiergehomecarefl.com, jgnoles1@aol.com, haynesgreg@bellsouth.net, ken.stearns19@gmail.com, melinda.sowers@cfafranchisee.com, jmp00001@gmail.com, bzimovan@comcast.net, msmith@phoenixmetals.com, williammarjorie@bellsouth.net, bergstrand2017@gmail.com, malewickic@comcast.net, monique36@bellsouth.net, docg1949@yahoo.com, cheryl.l.southern@gmail.com, dpadgett002@hotmail.com, kathyharcourt@gmail.com, johnharcourt2835@comcast.net, robertdpayne@bellsouth.net, charlie.benderiii@gmail.com, Andy Hein nils302@gmail.com, longbender@gmail.com, rajamesh@bellsouth.net, bkk9@comcast.net, bnorris@coj.net, Gerard Jacobs lakegeneva91@gmail.com, Grace Roberti viaburlamacchi@gmail.com, brandon.gouthro@gmail.com, kpowers@coj.net, jpappas@coj.net, mweinstein@coj.net, jmatthews@coj.net, Katie Inch katie.inch@gmail.com, news@jaxdailyrecord.com, tips@jacksonville.com, metrodesk@jacksonville.com, nicole mckinnon imnicole91@yahoo.com, astevens1037@gmail.com, PPerry@coj.net, Media@coj.net, cechevarri@firstcoastnews.com, amckinnon188@gmail.com, Bonamico Jacobs bonamico.jacobs@gmail.com, Giancarlo Jacobs giancarlo.g.jacobs@gmail.com, permitting@sjrwm.com, dconkey@sjrwm.com, media@eog.myflorida.com, Appointments@eog.myflorida.com, governorrn.desantis@eog.myflorida.com, michellelcb@comcast.net, Jason Hafer jasonrhafer@gmail.com, Robin Lumb robinlumb@primaxmedia.com, bradabrown@comcast.net, pegasus300@yahoo.com, Contact Us for Regulatory Permitting contact\_us\_for\_regulatory\_permitting@sjrwm.com, BIHobson@coj.net, zeke@southernconcepts.com, Clif.Payne@pondco.com, Steven Hunsader shunsader74@gmail.com, craigdion@comcast.net, Ford-Hardin, Gerrie - CCSS GerrieF@coj.net, lisa@stjohnsriverkeeper.org, jimmy@stjohnsriverkeeper.org, sierraclubflorida@sierraclub.org, Romy@publictrustlaw.org, info@floridawildlifefederation.org, friends@1000tof.org, R4\_Communications@epa.gov, R4\_Water@epa.gov, R4\_Enforcement@epa.gov, Stormwater@floridadep.gov, press@epa.gov, mwnelson@coj.net, davis.tracie.web@flsenate.gov, yarborough.clay.web@flsenate.gov, wyman.duggan@myfloridahouse.gov, Angie.nixon@myfloridahouse.gov, Kimberly.Daniels@myfloridahouse.gov, Kiyan.Michael@flhouse.gov, NataylaA@coj.net, R4\_Community\_Involvement@epa.gov, R4Water@epa.gov, cesaj-pa@usace.army.mil, cesaj-reg@usace.army.mil, northflorida@fws.gov, casework@rickscott.senate.gov, casework@rubio.senate.gov, medsumrell@comcast.net, Molton.Smith@phoenixmetals.com

Hi Steve,

To answer your question directly: yes, I have had both an in-person meeting and a follow-up call with two City Council members, and both have committed to looking into the issue. I have also been in communication with several other Council members' offices to coordinate additional meetings.

In particular, Councilman Rory Diamond, who represents the Hogpen Creek area, has committed to introducing a watershed study in this year's budget. We appreciate that commitment, though there are still several outstanding important questions regarding the scope, structure, and funding of that study that are critical to ensuring it is meaningful.

Before expanding further, by way of brief context for those newly included on this thread:

Jacksonville, FL residents have been raising concerns for some time regarding significant sediment build-up in Hogpen Creek (the intermediary between the City-created Sandalwood Canal, constructed in the 1960s-1970s, and the Intracoastal Waterway). The volume and nature of this accumulation do not appear natural and have been degrading water quality, eliminating wildlife, limiting navigation, and impacting surrounding properties.

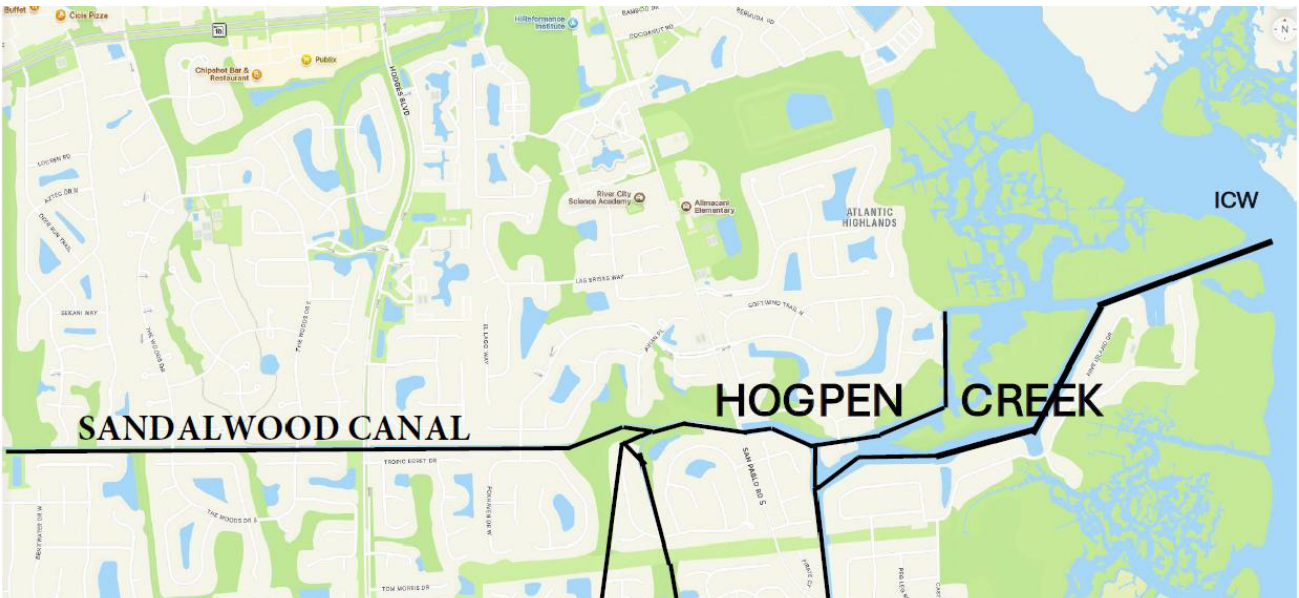
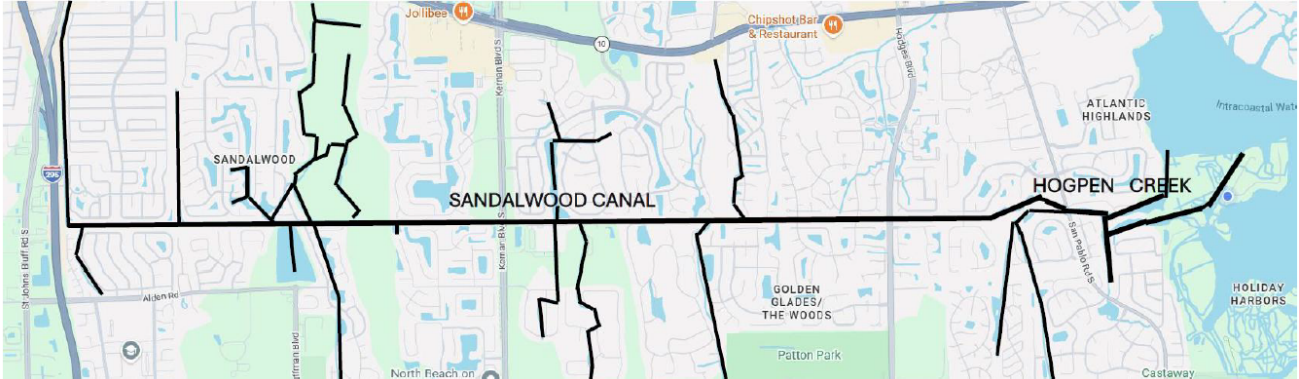


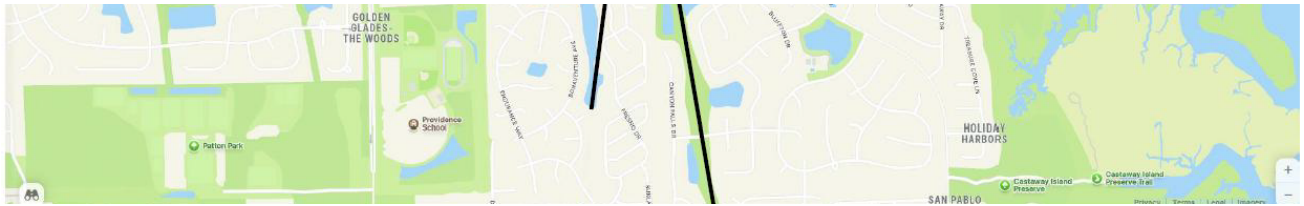


Multiple upstream and in-system factors are known to influence sediment movement, including:

- Instability and erosion within the City-created & maintained Sandalwood Canal (since the 1960s/1970s)
- Stormwater runoff from developed areas, most recently including the expansion of San Pablo Road (mid-2022 through early 2025)
- In-channel disturbances, including utility work performed by JEA (2013–2018 and again in 2023)

Sandalwood Canal runs east from I-295 for approximately 4 miles before entering Hogpen Creek. It drains roughly 11 square miles of land area between Atlantic Boulevard and Beach Boulevard (just over 7,000 acres).





The attached photos and deck provide additional context, including clear visual evidence of the increasing environmental degradation we are observing.

With respect to Councilman Diamond:

While Councilman Diamond has committed to introducing a watershed study, we have not yet received clarification on several key points that are critical to understanding whether a meaningful watershed analysis is being proposed:

- Which City department will be responsible for developing the study scope and cost estimate?
- Will the scope and cost be defined prior to the budget amendment so that funding supports a full analysis rather than a preliminary planning effort?
- How will the consultant be selected (e.g., through an RFP or similar procurement process)?
- What qualifications and independence standards will be required of the selected firm?
- Which department will oversee the study and consultant selection?

And most importantly:

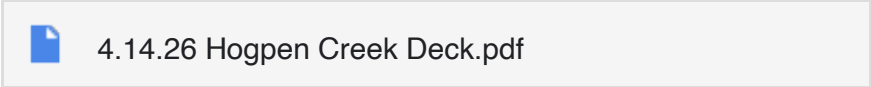
- How much of the \$1M in discretionary funding will be allocated to the watershed study, and how will that figure be determined?

This is fundamentally about ensuring that a properly scoped watershed-level analysis is conducted. Without that, the City does not have the information needed to identify sediment sources or develop effective long-term solutions.

Conditions in Hogpen Creek continue to visibly degrade, and it is critical that the sources of sediment are identified as soon as possible so that effective solutions can be developed.

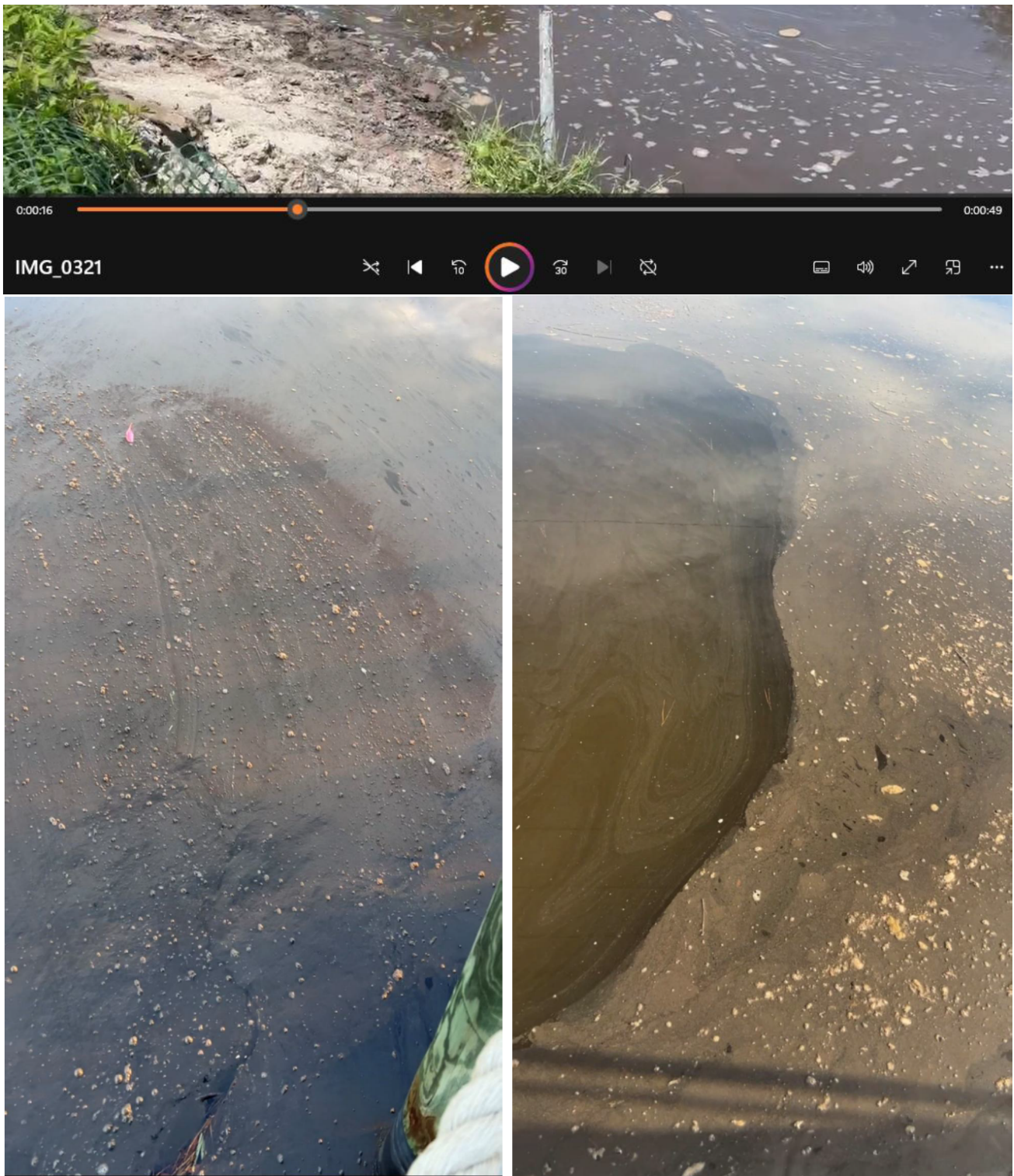
I hope to receive clarification from Councilman Diamond on these points, as the structure and funding of this study will determine whether it produces meaningful, actionable results.

Sincerely,  
Jake Jacobs  
14155 Pine Island Dr.  
Jacksonville, FL 32224  
847-400-7660



*Pages 13 & 15 of the attached deck: The San Pablo Road construction started in mid-2022 and did not finish until early 2025. Here are some pictures of the sludge/dirt/material that was pumped into Hogpen Creek:*



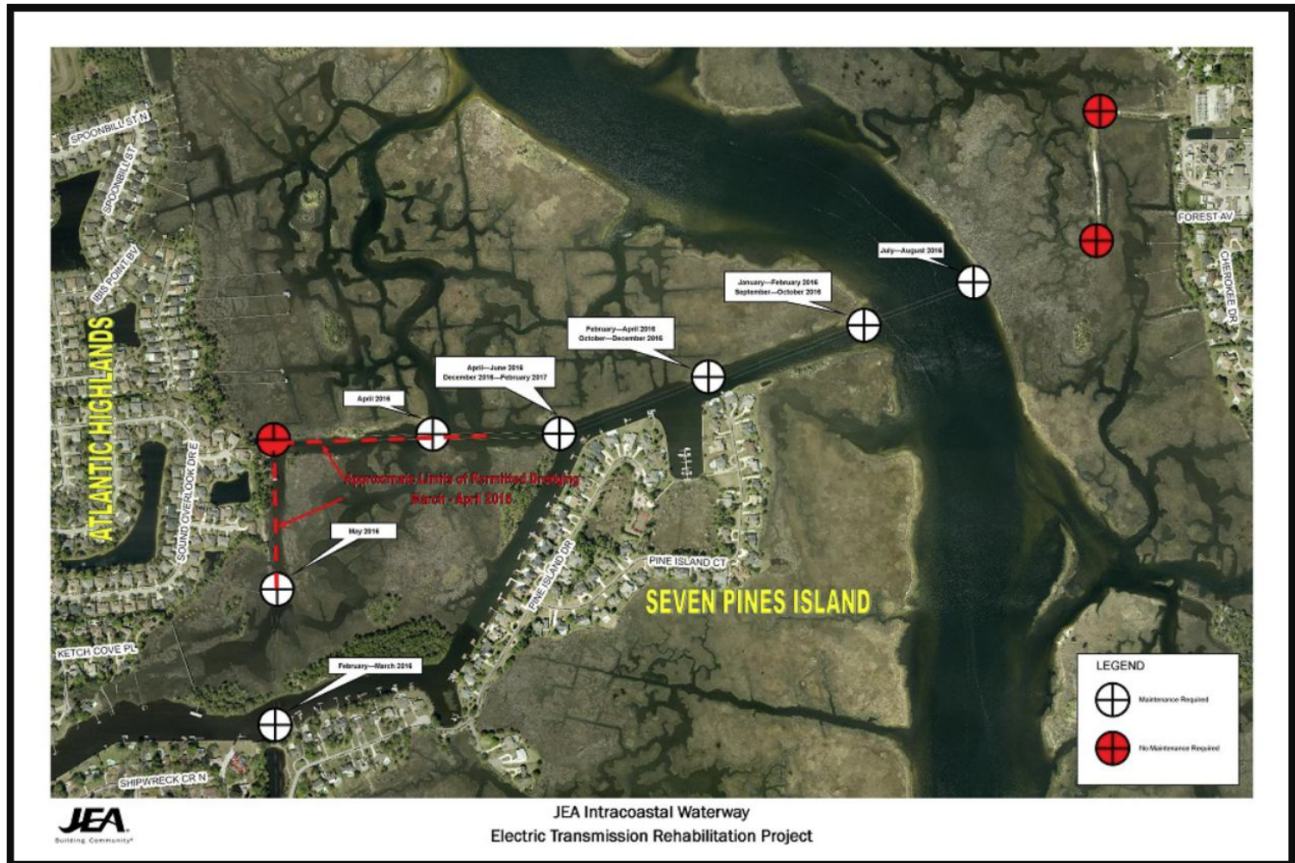


Starting on page 17 of the attached deck: in-channel disturbances, including utility work performed by JEA in 2013-2018 and in 2023:

JEA's work included the following:

- Structurally repairing steel H-pilings supporting 7 transmission towers
- Excavation and jetting around tower bases
- Chipping concrete encasements
- Sandblasting and drilling into pilings
- Dredging (2016) to access the tower foundations
- Encapsulation with fiberglass and grout
- Structural repair of pilings

JEA Map of 2013-2018 Project Area<sup>6</sup>:



On Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 2:34 PM, Diamond, Rory - City Council Office <[RDiamond@coj.net](mailto:RDiamond@coj.net)> wrote:

Mr. Hunsader,

The budget process begins in August and Mr. Diamond will **introduce** the study to be included at that time.

Thank You,

Rory Diamond  
District 13  
Jacksonville City Council  
117 West Duval Street, Suite 425  
Jacksonville, Florida 32202  
[rdiamond@coj.net](mailto:rdiamond@coj.net)  
904.255.5213

On Mon, Apr 20, 2026 at 5:11 PM Steve Proctor <[steve.proctor@proctorace.com](mailto:steve.proctor@proctorace.com)> wrote:

Jake,

Has anyone from the City Council responded?

Steve Proctor

**From:** Jake Jacobs <[jakejacobs1919@gmail.com](mailto:jakejacobs1919@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Saturday, April 18, 2026 11:18 AM

**To:** Amaro, Ken - City Council Office <[KAmaro@coj.net](mailto:KAmaro@coj.net)>; [MGay@coj.net](mailto:MGay@coj.net); [jpeluso@coj.net](mailto:jpeluso@coj.net); [allwetsports@aol.com](mailto:allwetsports@aol.com); [jmbarker2470@gmail.com](mailto:jmbarker2470@gmail.com); [bbirtalan@bellsouth.net](mailto:bbirtalan@bellsouth.net); [hardesty@jaxlegal.com](mailto:hardesty@jaxlegal.com); [rickhartleyjax@gmail.com](mailto:rickhartleyjax@gmail.com); [jchmoney1@gmail.com](mailto:jchmoney1@gmail.com); [markbdev@aol.com](mailto:markbdev@aol.com); [Dean.Black@flhouse.gov](mailto:Dean.Black@flhouse.gov)

**Cc:** [mayordonnadeegan@coj.net](mailto:mayordonnadeegan@coj.net); [rdiamond@coj.net](mailto:rdiamond@coj.net); [NHowland@coj.net](mailto:NHowland@coj.net); [TFreeman@coj.net](mailto:TFreeman@coj.net); [RSalem@coj.net](mailto:RSalem@coj.net); [MCarlucci@coj.net](mailto:MCarlucci@coj.net); [ChrisMiller@coj.net](mailto:ChrisMiller@coj.net); [steve.proctor@proctorace.com](mailto:steve.proctor@proctorace.com); [WLahnen@coj.net](mailto:WLahnen@coj.net); [JoeCarlucci@coj.net](mailto:JoeCarlucci@coj.net); [TClarkMurray@coj.net](mailto:TClarkMurray@coj.net); [AriasR@coj.net](mailto:AriasR@coj.net); [KCarrico@coj.net](mailto:KCarrico@coj.net); [MBoylan@coj.net](mailto:MBoylan@coj.net); [RGaffneyJr@coj.net](mailto:RGaffneyJr@coj.net); [JPittman@coj.net](mailto:JPittman@coj.net); [RandyWhite@coj.net](mailto:RandyWhite@coj.net); [Rahman@coj.net](mailto:Rahman@coj.net); [MSConner@coj.net](mailto:MSConner@coj.net); [nsickler@coj.net](mailto:nsickler@coj.net); [casmira@jaxtoday.org](mailto:casmira@jaxtoday.org); 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[zeke@southernconcepts.com](mailto:zeke@southernconcepts.com); [Clif.Payne@pondco.com](mailto:Clif.Payne@pondco.com); Steven Hunsader <[shunsader74@gmail.com](mailto:shunsader74@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Why is the City of Jacksonville Not Dealing With the Hogpen Creek Problem?

I thank you for the opportunity to speak at your recent meeting regarding the Hogpen Creek sediment buildup and the need for a properly scoped watershed analysis. I have attached the deck from my presentation, along with additional photos from Hogpen Creek taken last night.

As discussed, without a watershed-level analysis, the City does not have the information needed to determine the primary sources of sediment or to develop effective long-term solutions. Multiple factors are likely contributing, including Sandalwood Canal instability, stormwater runoff from developed areas such as San Pablo Road, and in-channel disturbances such as JEA's multi-year utility work. A comprehensive watershed analysis is the standard method for evaluating systems of this complexity.

**As was noted during the meeting, the financial responsibility for addressing sediment accumulation may involve multiple parties, including the City, Duval County, and the State. This makes it especially important that a properly scoped study be completed so that both the sources of sediment and the appropriate allocation of responsibility can be clearly understood.**

Given the complexity of the issue and the number of stakeholders involved, my neighbors and I are seeking clarification from Councilman Diamond, who represents the Hogpen Creek area, regarding the timing and structure of the proposed study, for which he has committed to "introduce a line item" in this year's budget cycle. However, key details regarding what that line item will fund remain unclear.

Despite prior inquiries, we have not received responses to the following questions, which are critical to understanding whether a meaningful watershed analysis is being proposed:

1. Which City department will be responsible for developing the study scope and cost estimate?
2. Will the scope and cost be defined prior to the budget amendment so that funding supports the full analysis rather than a preliminary planning effort?
3. How will the consultant be selected (e.g., through an RFP or similar procurement process)?
4. What qualifications and independence standards will be required of the selected firm?
5. Which department will oversee the study and consultant selection?

Without clarity on these points, it is difficult to understand how a line item would be structured to produce a comprehensive watershed analysis, rather than a limited or preliminary effort.

As reflected in the attached photos, conditions in Hogpen Creek continue to warrant timely attention, and this is the appropriate time to ensure that a properly scoped study is included in the upcoming budget process.

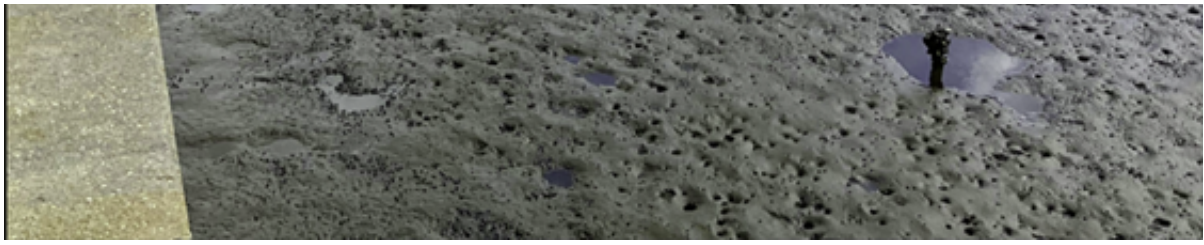
My intent is to ensure that any study undertaken is properly defined and capable of identifying root causes, so that future decisions are based on data rather than assumptions.

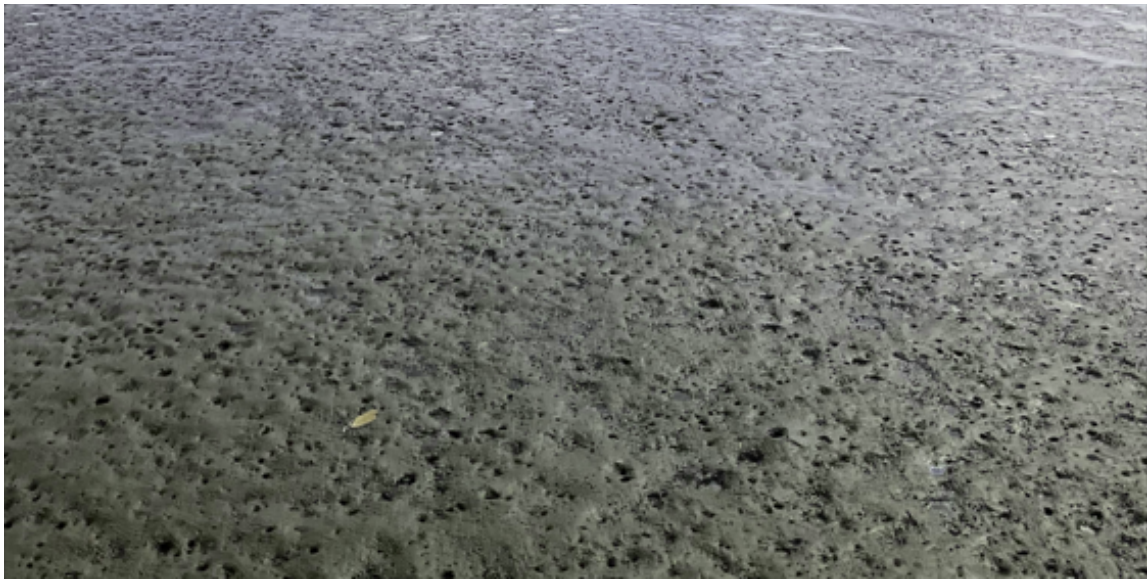
I would appreciate a response addressing these questions, as they are central to ensuring that this effort results in a meaningful and actionable study.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,  
Jake Jacobs  
14155 Pine Island Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32224







Look carefully -- that's mud under those towers, not water:









On Thursday, September 18, 2025, 11:36 AM, Diamond, Rory - City Council Office <[RDiamond@coj.net](mailto:RDiamond@coj.net)> wrote:

Councilman Diamond will **introduce a line item** next year for a study.

Thank You,

Rory Diamond

District 13

Jacksonville City Council

117 West Duval Street, Suite 425

Jacksonville, Florida 32202

[rdiamond@coj.net](mailto:rdiamond@coj.net)

904.255.5213



Latour, Makenzi - CCSS <[MSConner@coj.net](mailto:MSConner@coj.net)>  
to me ▾

Fri, Mar 13, 2:13 PM ☆ 😊 ↶ ⋮

Thank you so much for reaching out CM Diamond does plan on making an amendment to includes this in the upcoming budget. The budget process begins in August and during this process he will propose this be included.

Thank You,

*Makenzi Conner*

Makenzi Conner  
Executive Council Assistant  
District 13  
Office of City Council  
117 W. Duval Street, Suite 425  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
(904) 255-5152  
[mconner@jcc.net](mailto:mconner@jcc.net)

On Tue, Apr 14, 2026 at 11:10 AM Jake Jacobs <[jakejacobs1919@gmail.com](mailto:jakejacobs1919@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Councilman Diamond and Mayor Deegan,

I am writing to share the attached deck, "4.14.26 Hogpen Creek Deck," regarding sediment buildup in Hogpen Creek and the need for a properly scoped watershed analysis to be included in this year's budget.

As outlined in the attached, sediment accumulation in Hogpen Creek has been identified as a concern, but the underlying causes have not been fully analyzed or quantified. Multiple upstream and in-system factors are known to influence sediment movement, including:

- Instability within the Sandalwood Canal system
- Stormwater runoff from developed areas
- In-channel disturbances, including utility work

The document provides supporting information showing that:

- The Sandalwood Canal is actively generating sediment due to erosion and instability
- Stormwater runoff increases flow velocity and sediment transport within the system
- In-channel work has physically disturbed and redistributed sediment in recent years
- The geometry of the Hogpen Creek and Intracoastal Waterway confluence makes it unlikely that the ICW is a primary sediment source

Importantly, as demonstrated in the analysis: Hogpen Creek is where sediment accumulates, not where it originates.

Given the interaction of these factors, a watershed-level analysis is the standard and necessary approach to identify sediment sources, quantify their relative contributions, and develop effective long-term solutions.

I respectfully request that a properly scoped watershed analysis of the Hogpen Creek basin be included in this year's budget, with:

- A clearly defined scope and methodology
- Appropriate technical oversight
- Use of a qualified, independent engineering or geotechnical firm

**In addition, several key questions regarding the structure and execution of this study remain unresolved and should be addressed prior to funding, including:**

- Which City department will be responsible for developing the study scope and cost estimate?
- Will the scope and cost be defined in advance so that funding supports the analysis itself rather than a preliminary effort?
- Will the study specify retaining a qualified geotechnical firm located outside of Duval County?
- How will the consultant be selected (e.g., through an RFP process)?
- What qualifications and independence standards will be required of the selected firm?
- Which department will oversee execution and ensure accountability?

**Clarifying these items now will help ensure that any budget allocation results in a meaningful, actionable study.**

This request is not about assigning fault. It is about ensuring that decisions regarding Hogpen Creek are based on data rather than assumptions, and that any solution pursued addresses the root causes of sediment accumulation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your attention to this issue and would welcome the opportunity to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Jake Jacobs  
14155 Pine Island Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32226

Jacksonville, FL 32224  
847-400-7660

On Mon, Apr 13, 2026 at 8:27 AM <[steve.proctor@proctorace.com](mailto:steve.proctor@proctorace.com)> wrote:

Rory, Mayor Deegan, Councilmen, and others,

My wife Leigh and I have lived on Sevin Pines Island and have had a slip in Sevin Pines Island Marina since 1991.

We have witnessed the steady silting in of Hogpen Creek twice from deep water access to barely navigable at high tides, which is the current condition.

When we moved in there was deep water access to the entire marina and in Hogpen Creek from the intracoastal waterway to San Pablo Road including access to all the docks. When Bill Gulliford was our councilman, it was determined that much of the sediment that filled the creek was caused by the development west of San Pablo Road that drains into Hogpen Creek and discharges into the Intracoastal Waterway and the City accepted 50% of the responsibility to dredge it to a serviceable depth for that purpose. The residents were to be responsible for the other 50%.

Now we have the same situation only worse. Hogpen Creek is practically full of sediment significantly limiting the flow of water and navigation. It is obvious that much if not most of this sediment has come from the upstream development like it was designed to. All you have to do is look east from San Pablo Road where culverts allow the upstream water and debris to flow. There are large sand, silt, and debris deposits clearly visible on both sides of the culverts. It is a simple and obvious conclusion that sediment came from upstream, not downstream. When you add the debris deposited by the San Pablo widening, it's even more significant.

Since there is doubt that that this is actually what happened, it makes a lot of sense for a study to determine the source be done so we can get the creek fixed properly again and fairly allocate the cost.

I also agree with neighbor Ken Stearns who correctly pointed out the issues caused the JEA tower maintenance where their equipment damaged a retention pond seawall, deposited debris, and partially blocked the flow causing even more sediment and silt to settle in the creek.

We formed a tax district last year to start working on dredging the creek but Councilman Diamond dissolved it under pressure by some of the residents claiming correctly that it was not fair that no responsibility for the project be born by other obvious contributors to the issue.

Please have the study done this year to determine the sources of the issue so we can get this project done soon.

Steve Proctor

President, Proctor Ace Hardware

2312 Pine Island Court

Jacksonville, FL 32224

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**From:** Mike Hagan <[pegasusa300@yahoo.com](mailto:pegasusa300@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2026 10:18 AM

**To:** Robin Lumb <[robinlumb@primaxmedia.com](mailto:robinlumb@primaxmedia.com)>

**Cc:** Jake Jacobs <[jakejacobs1919@gmail.com](mailto:jakejacobs1919@gmail.com)>; [rdiamond@coj.net](mailto:rdiamond@coj.net); [NHowland@coj.net](mailto:NHowland@coj.net); [TFreeman@coj.net](mailto:TFreeman@coj.net); [RSalem@coj.net](mailto:RSalem@coj.net); [MCarlucci@coj.net](mailto:MCarlucci@coj.net); [ChrisMiller@coj.net](mailto:ChrisMiller@coj.net); [KAmaro@coj.net](mailto:KAmaro@coj.net); [WLahnen@coj.net](mailto:WLahnen@coj.net); [JoeCarlucci@coj.net](mailto:JoeCarlucci@coj.net); [JPeluso@coj.net](mailto:JPeluso@coj.net); [TClarkMurray@coj.net](mailto:TClarkMurray@coj.net); [AriasR@coj.net](mailto:AriasR@coj.net); [MGay@coj.net](mailto:MGay@coj.net); [KCarrico@coj.net](mailto:KCarrico@coj.net); [MBoylan@coj.net](mailto:MBoylan@coj.net); [RGaffneyJr@coj.net](mailto:RGaffneyJr@coj.net); [JPittman@coj.net](mailto:JPittman@coj.net); [RandyWhite@coj.net](mailto:RandyWhite@coj.net); [Rahman@coj.net](mailto:Rahman@coj.net); [MSConner@coj.net](mailto:MSConner@coj.net); [MayorDonnaDeegan@coj.net](mailto:MayorDonnaDeegan@coj.net); [nsickler@coj.net](mailto:nsickler@coj.net); [casmira@jaxtoday.org](mailto:casmira@jaxtoday.org); [jessica@jaxtoday.org](mailto:jessica@jaxtoday.org); [newstips@news4jax.com](mailto:newstips@news4jax.com); [news@actionnewsjax.com](mailto:news@actionnewsjax.com); [newstips@jacksonville.com](mailto:newstips@jacksonville.com); [tips@jaxtrib.org](mailto:tips@jaxtrib.org); [news@duvaltimes.com](mailto:news@duvaltimes.com); [JFreePress@aol.com](mailto:JFreePress@aol.com); [afosmoe@gmail.com](mailto:afosmoe@gmail.com); [news@firstcoastnews.com](mailto:news@firstcoastnews.com); [AskAnthony@firstcoastnews.com](mailto:AskAnthony@firstcoastnews.com); [jpalombo@wjct.org](mailto:jpalombo@wjct.org); [crawford2@firstcoastnews.com](mailto:crawford2@firstcoastnews.com); [pamela@residentnews.net](mailto:pamela@residentnews.net); [aaustin@firstcoastnews.com](mailto:aaustin@firstcoastnews.com); [sdishon@firstcoastnews.com](mailto:sdishon@firstcoastnews.com); [agonzalez1@firstcoastnews.com](mailto:agonzalez1@firstcoastnews.com);

[calfree@firstcoastnews.com](mailto:calfree@firstcoastnews.com); [rphillips1@firstcoastnews.com](mailto:rphillips1@firstcoastnews.com);  
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[melinda.sowers@cfafranchisee.com](mailto:melinda.sowers@cfafranchisee.com); [jmp00001@gmail.com](mailto:jmp00001@gmail.com); [bzimovan@comcast.net](mailto:bzimovan@comcast.net);  
[msmith@phoenixmetals.com](mailto:msmith@phoenixmetals.com); [williammarjorie@bellsouth.net](mailto:williammarjorie@bellsouth.net);  
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[bkk9@comcast.net](mailto:bkk9@comcast.net); [bnorris@coj.net](mailto:bnorris@coj.net); Gerard Jacobs <[lakegeneva91@gmail.com](mailto:lakegeneva91@gmail.com)>;  
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[Appointments@eog.myflorida.com](mailto:Appointments@eog.myflorida.com); [governorron.desantis@eog.myflorida.com](mailto:governorron.desantis@eog.myflorida.com)

**Subject:** Re: Why is the City of Jacksonville Not Dealing With the Hogpen Creek Problem?

Hello All,

I am now forced to sell my boat.

With the canal filling in with sediment, my tidal opportunities have been greatly reduced to get off my lift. Now the sandbar at the confluence of Hogpen Creek and the ICW has made the situation even worse. It appears like no one at the city level is willing to address this problem, and yet we're all being taxed higher. This must be addressed. Any of you may contact me anytime.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 2, 2026, at 9:13 PM, Robin Lumb <[robinlumb@primaxmedia.com](mailto:robinlumb@primaxmedia.com)> wrote:

C/M Diamond, et. al.:

Please see the attached PowerPoint that residents of Hogpen Creek put together while lobbying for the dissolution of the Hogpen Dependent Special Taxing District.

I understand that the City of Jacksonville has a policy of

not being responsible for dredging projects that don't involve creating access to city-owned boat ramps.

For the record, that distinction is arbitrary and can easily be replaced by a new policy in which the City of Jacksonville assumes responsibility for the silt and sediment that its stormwater management infrastructure discharges directly into public waterways such as Hogpen Creek.

Respectfully,

Robin Lumb  
2164 Gilmore Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32204

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**From:** Jake Jacobs <[jakejacobs1919@gmail.com](mailto:jakejacobs1919@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 2, 2026 8:33 PM  
**To:** [rdiamond@coj.net](mailto:rdiamond@coj.net)  
**Cc:** Robin Lumb <[robinlumb@primaxmedia.com](mailto:robinlumb@primaxmedia.com)>; [NHowland@coj.net](mailto:NHowland@coj.net); [TFreeman@coj.net](mailto:TFreeman@coj.net); [RSalem@coj.net](mailto:RSalem@coj.net); [MCarlucci@coj.net](mailto:MCarlucci@coj.net); [ChrisMiller@coj.net](mailto:ChrisMiller@coj.net); [KAmaro@coj.net](mailto:KAmaro@coj.net); [WLahnen@coj.net](mailto:WLahnen@coj.net); [JoeCarlucci@coj.net](mailto:JoeCarlucci@coj.net); [JPeluso@coj.net](mailto:JPeluso@coj.net); [TClarkMurray@coj.net](mailto:TClarkMurray@coj.net); [AriasR@coj.net](mailto:AriasR@coj.net); [MGay@coj.net](mailto:MGay@coj.net); [KCarrico@coj.net](mailto:KCarrico@coj.net); [MBoylan@coj.net](mailto:MBoylan@coj.net); [RGaffneyJr@coj.net](mailto:RGaffneyJr@coj.net); [JPittman@coj.net](mailto:JPittman@coj.net); [RandyWhite@coj.net](mailto:RandyWhite@coj.net); [Rahman@coj.net](mailto:Rahman@coj.net); [MSConner@coj.net](mailto:MSConner@coj.net); [MayorDonnaDeegan@coj.net](mailto:MayorDonnaDeegan@coj.net); [nsickler@coj.net](mailto:nsickler@coj.net); [casmira@jaxtoday.org](mailto:casmira@jaxtoday.org); [jessica@jaxtoday.org](mailto:jessica@jaxtoday.org); [newstips@news4jax.com](mailto:newstips@news4jax.com); [news@actionnewsjax.com](mailto:news@actionnewsjax.com); [newstips@jacksonville.com](mailto:newstips@jacksonville.com); [tips@jaxtrib.org](mailto:tips@jaxtrib.org); [news@duvaltimes.com](mailto:news@duvaltimes.com); [JFreePress@aol.com](mailto:JFreePress@aol.com); [afosmoe@gmail.com](mailto:afosmoe@gmail.com); [news@firstcoastnews.com](mailto:news@firstcoastnews.com); [AskAnthony@firstcoastnews.com](mailto:AskAnthony@firstcoastnews.com); [jpalombo@wjct.org](mailto:jpalombo@wjct.org); [crawford2@firstcoastnews.com](mailto:crawford2@firstcoastnews.com); [pamela@residentnews.net](mailto:pamela@residentnews.net); [aaustin@firstcoastnews.com](mailto:aaustin@firstcoastnews.com); [sdishon@firstcoastnews.com](mailto:sdishon@firstcoastnews.com); [agonzalez1@firstcoastnews.com](mailto:agonzalez1@firstcoastnews.com); [calfree@firstcoastnews.com](mailto:calfree@firstcoastnews.com); [rphillips1@firstcoastnews.com](mailto:rphillips1@firstcoastnews.com); [news@pontevedrarecorder.com](mailto:news@pontevedrarecorder.com); [cburgess@firstcoastnews.com](mailto:cburgess@firstcoastnews.com); [news@unfspinnaker.com](mailto:news@unfspinnaker.com); [zwilcox@firstcoastnews.com](mailto:zwilcox@firstcoastnews.com); [tips@unfspinnaker.com](mailto:tips@unfspinnaker.com); [editorial@jaxdailyrecord.com](mailto:editorial@jaxdailyrecord.com); [team@folioweekly.com](mailto:team@folioweekly.com); [editor@beachesleader.com](mailto:editor@beachesleader.com); [editor@unfspinnaker.com](mailto:editor@unfspinnaker.com); [Joelle.Balotin@amerisbank.com](mailto:Joelle.Balotin@amerisbank.com); [news@jaxtoday.org](mailto:news@jaxtoday.org); [aaron@farseekerrealty.com](mailto:aaron@farseekerrealty.com); [estopo@bellsouth.net](mailto:estopo@bellsouth.net); [rceconnolly@gmail.com](mailto:rceconnolly@gmail.com); [ryan.paul.michael.adams@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.paul.michael.adams@gmail.com);

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[jgnoles1@aol.com](mailto:jgnoles1@aol.com); [haynesgreg@bellsouth.net](mailto:haynesgreg@bellsouth.net);  
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[charlie.benderiii@gmail.com](mailto:charlie.benderiii@gmail.com); Andy Hein <[nils302@gmail.com](mailto:nils302@gmail.com)>;  
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[governorron.desantis@eog.myflorida.com](mailto:governorron.desantis@eog.myflorida.com)

**Subject:** Re: FW: Why is the City of Jacksonville Not Dealing With the Hogpen Creek Problem?

Council Members, Mayor Deegan, and all,

First, thank you to Zach Wilcox and Cole Echevarria of First Coast News for taking the time to visit my home on Hogpen Creek today to see firsthand, and report on, the extent of the sediment build-up and the condition of Hogpen Creek. A link to First Coast News' coverage is here:

<https://www.firstcoastnews.com/article/news/local/hogpen-creek-sediment-buildup/77-f50aa712-4fc4-419f-96d1-39c8d67e6ca4>

By way of brief context for those newly included on this thread, residents along Hogpen Creek have been raising concerns for some time regarding significant sediment build-up that is limiting navigation, degrading water quality, and impacting surrounding properties. This area is directly influenced by the Sandalwood Canal, a City-maintained and operated stormwater system that collects runoff from a large surrounding area and ultimately discharges into Hogpen Creek, making the creek a downstream receiving body for City infrastructure. To date, efforts to secure a properly scoped study to determine the cause and appropriate remediation path have not yet resulted in a clear plan of action. Given the scale of public investment the City of Jacksonville has recently committed to major projects and infrastructure initiatives, I would hope that allocating the comparatively modest resources required to properly evaluate and address an issue directly affecting Jacksonville residents and waterways would be considered a priority.

As the below photos show from Zach and Cole's visit at 5:00 PM today, large portions of Hogpen Creek are now exposed during low tide, significantly limiting navigation, impacting wildlife, and affecting water quality for residents along the creek. The deteriorating conditions observed today are not theoretical; they are clearly visible, measurable and ongoing.

I also wanted to follow up on the City's position that "The City of Jacksonville only performs dredge projects for access to city owned and/or operated boat ramps. In this case, this water body only serves private residences and would not be dredged by the city."

While that policy may be applicable for maintaining recreational access at City boat ramps, it does not meaningfully address situations where City-managed infrastructure is directly discharging into and potentially impacting downstream waterways, including impacts to adjacent property values and impacts to local wildlife. Evaluating this issue solely through the lens of boat ramp access overlooks the broader public function and impact of the City's stormwater system.

More importantly, Hogpen Creek may not serve a public boat ramp, but it is directly impacted by the Sandalwood

Canal, which is a City-maintained and operated stormwater system. That system collects and conveys runoff from a large surrounding area of approximately 11 square miles and ultimately discharges into Hogpen Creek. Unlike a boat ramp, which serves a more limited group of users, this stormwater system serves a broad public function that benefits the City as a whole, not just the homeowners along Hogpen Creek. In that sense, Hogpen Creek is functioning as a downstream receiving body for City infrastructure.

Given that relationship, this is not simply a private waterway issue, but one in which City infrastructure may be contributing to sediment accumulation that is now materially affecting residents and the creek itself.

This is precisely why a properly scoped geotechnical study is so important. A properly scoped study would help determine whether the Sandalwood Canal is contributing to the sediment build-up and, if so, what the appropriate path forward should be.

Given the visible conditions along Hogpen Creek and the potential connection to City-managed stormwater infrastructure, I would welcome clarification on how the City, in coordination with Councilman Diamond, intends to move forward in evaluating and addressing this issue, including allocating the resources necessary for a properly scoped geotechnical study.

Thank you again to First Coast News for coming out today and helping bring visibility to this issue.

Sincerely,  
Jake Jacobs  
14155 Pine Island Drive  
Jacksonville, FL  
847-400-7660

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On Fri, Mar 13, 2026 at 6:58 PM Jake Jacobs <[jakejacobs1919@gmail.com](mailto:jakejacobs1919@gmail.com)> wrote:

Councilman Diamond,

Thank you for the response from your office (screenshot below) indicating that you plan to introduce an amendment during the upcoming budget process to include funding for a study related to the sediment build-up in Hogpen Creek.

As residents along the creek are very concerned about the ongoing sediment accumulation, declining wildlife, and deteriorating water quality, I wanted to follow up on several questions from my previous email that were not addressed.

Specifically:

- Which City department will be responsible for developing the study scope and estimated cost?
- Will the scope and cost estimate be developed prior to the budget amendment so that the line item funds the geotechnical analysis itself rather than a preliminary planning effort?
- Will the study specify retaining a qualified geotechnical firm located outside of Duval County?
- How will the geotechnical firm be selected (for example, through an RFP or other procurement process)?
- Which department will oversee the study and consultant selection?

My understanding is that the Mayor's Office and City departments begin internal budget planning well before the Council's budget hearings in August. If that is the case, could you please clarify how these questions regarding study scope, procurement, and cost will be addressed in advance so that the proposed amendment in August is properly defined?

I also want to make sure that enough funding is ultimately set aside for the study. With the ongoing discussion at the state level regarding potential property tax reductions, which could affect future City revenues, it seems especially important that the scope and estimated cost be defined early so the appropriate amount can be included in the budget.

This is a real-world issue affecting hundreds of Jacksonville residents who live along Hogpen Creek and see the impacts every day. While the City regularly allocates substantial funding for large civic projects, it would be reassuring to residents to know that resources can also be set aside to address environmental and infrastructure problems that directly affect neighborhoods and waterways.

Clarifying these items ahead of the budget process would help ensure that the funding introduced results in the geotechnical analysis needed to determine the source of the sediment entering Hogpen Creek.

Many Hogpen Creek residents are closely following this issue and would appreciate any additional detail your office can provide.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Jake Jacobs

<image009.png>

On Mon, Mar 9, 2026 at 7:56 PM Jake Jacobs <[jakejacobs1919@gmail.com](mailto:jakejacobs1919@gmail.com)> wrote:

Councilman Diamond,

I hope you are doing well.

On September 18, 2025, your office informed me that you would introduce a line item in the next city budget for a study regarding the sediment build-up in Hogpen Creek.

As the City begins preparing the upcoming budget, I wanted to follow up regarding the line item your office indicated would be introduced for this study.

The goal of the study would be for the City to retain a qualified geotechnical firm located outside of Duval County to evaluate whether the City's Sandalwood Canal is contributing to the sediment build-up in Hogpen Creek. Having the work performed by an independent firm from outside the county would help ensure that the analysis is viewed as objective and credible by residents.

To help ensure the budget line item funds the geotechnical analysis itself, rather than a preliminary effort to define a future study, it would be helpful for the study scope, procurement approach, and estimated cost to be developed in advance of the budget process.

Could you please let us know:

- Whether the scope will specify retaining a geotechnical firm located outside of Duval County
- Which City department will be responsible for developing the study scope and estimated cost in advance of the budget process
- Whether that scope and cost estimate will allow the line item to fund the geotechnical analysis itself
- How the geotechnical firm would be selected (for example, through an RFP or other procurement process)
- Which department would oversee the study and consultant selection
- The anticipated timeline for introducing the line item

Residents along Hogpen Creek remain very concerned about the ongoing sediment build-up, the decline in wildlife, and deteriorating water quality, and this study would be an important step toward determining the appropriate path forward.

Several Hogpen Creek residents have asked me to follow up on this as the budget process begins, and I will be happy to share any update from your office with them.

Thank you again for your office's commitment to introducing a line item for this study. I appreciate any update you can provide.

Sincerely,

Jake Jacobs  
14155 Pine Island Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32224  
847-400-7660

**Dear Council Members and Mr. Jacobs:**

You may recall that I addressed City Council earlier in the year on this very topic.

After spending several months working with the affected homeowners, inspecting Sandalwood Canal at various points, studying depth charts and currents, and examining the photographic evidence I came to the inescapable conclusion that the City of Jacksonville, which is entirely responsible for the construction and maintenance of the Sandalwood Canal, is the party solely responsible for the siltation and pollution entering Hogpen Creek.

The siltation occurring in Hogpen Creek, especially in the lower half closest to San Pablo Road, is clearly the result of eroded soil and decaying vegetative matter being discharged from the Sandalwood Canal.

Since the Sandalwood Canal is a major component of the city's stormwater management system that drains approximately 11 square miles of land area between Beach Boulevard and Atlantic Boulevard, it should be the City of Jacksonville's responsibility to conduct and pay for the much-needed dredge.

It doesn't speak well of Mayor Deegan that she has previously dismissed the pollution in Hogpen Creek as "not the city's problem".

My recommendation is that City Council should follow the Pottery Barn Rule: "You break it, you buy it!"

Respectfully,

Respectfully,

## Robin Lumb

Robin Lumb  
Jacksonville City Council – 2011-2015

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**Subject:** Re: Why is the City of Jacksonville Not Dealing With the Hogpen Creek Problem?

Rory,

I received a response from your assistant, Makenzi Conner, screenshotted below, stating that your office will introduce a line item in next year's budget for a geotechnical study of the sediment build up in Hogpen Creek.

Thank you very much for your attention to this serious environmental issue that we are facing.

I will pass along this appreciated news to the others on Hogpen Creek.

We all greatly appreciate it.

Thank you,  
Jake Jacobs  
14155 Pine Island Drive  
847-400-7660

<image010.png>

On Mon, Sep 15, 2025 at 8:55 PM Jake Jacobs <[jakejacobs1919@gmail.com](mailto:jakejacobs1919@gmail.com)> wrote:

Rory,

I received a response from your assistant, Makenzi Conner, screenshotted below, which says that your office has already allocated all \$1M that you have at your disposal in this year's budget.

In light of the extremely serious environmental issue that we have in Hogpen Creek, and the need to determine if it is the City's Sandalwood Canal that is causing the sediment build-up or not, I ask you: are you willing to commit enough money in next year's budget to pay for a geotechnical study of Hogpen Creek, to be done by a firm based outside of Duval County?

If you would, that would be greatly appreciated, as it would be a huge step forward in resolving this issue in an equitable fashion that can determine whether the sediment build up problem is being caused by the City's Sandalwood Canal, or not.

I look forward to your response.

Thank you,  
Jake Jacobs  
14155 Pine Island Drive

Jacksonville, FL 32224

847-400-7660

<image011.png>

On Sun, Sep 14, 2025 at 10:05 PM Jake Jacobs <[jakejacobs1919@gmail.com](mailto:jakejacobs1919@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear City Council Members,

Hogpen Creek is facing an environmental crisis because of the increasing sediment/sand build up, which is at its worst close to San Pablo, where Hogpen Creek meets the Sandalwood Canal; there, you can literally walk across Hogpen Creek at low tide. Hogpen Creek's water height continues to lower (again, it is worse closer to San Pablo), the wildlife has declined, and the water quality has declined tremendously. It is obvious to all of the homeowners how negatively the Hogpen Creek has been impacted by the sediment build up.

This email is to suggest a way to resolve the Hogpen Creek sedimentation issue.

I was told the other week by City Council Member Matt Carlucci, and City Council Member Nick Howland's assistant Amber Lehman, that City Council Member Rory Diamond has \$1M at his discretion for District 13. I'd like Rory to use that money to have the City hire a qualified geotechnical firm, located outside of Duval County, to analyze the sediment/sand impact of the city's stormwater management system -- the Sandalwood Canal -- on Hogpen Creek.

Over the last month, I have reached out to Rory repeatedly via email and phone about this topic, but he has not responded to me.

If the geotechnical firm reports that City-created Sandalwood Canal is causing the built-up sediment problem in Hogpen Creek, then we have a credible basis for the City (as a whole) incurring the cost of dredging and maintaining Hogpen Creek, since the City benefits from the Sandalwood Canal, which drains approximately 11 square miles of land between Beach Blvd. and Atlantic Blvd.

If the geotechnical firm reports that the Sandalwood Canal is not causing the problem in Hogpen Creek, as the Public Works director claims, then I would believe that the dredging and maintenance of Hogpen Creek should be incurred by the 111 homeowners living on Hogpen Creek.

Either way, I believe that Rory's constituents would be pleased that Rory used the City money at his disposal to conduct this necessary study, which will either prove that this is a City-caused problem that the City needs to deal with, or it's not. In fact, I have already reached out to a number of my neighbors who are very supportive of this approach.

On Friday, I also mailed letters to all of the homeowners on Hogpen Creek, notifying them of Rory's \$1M and my desire to have the City use a portion of that money to hire a geotechnical firm to put the Hogpen Creek sediment build-up question to bed. I know that others in District 13 have reached out to Rory since my mailings, but no one has gotten a response from Rory, as far as I know.

Any guidance would be appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Jake

Jake Jacobs  
14155 Pine Island Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32224  
847-400-7660

<Hogpen Creek Power Point on City-caused siltation-06-06-24.pdf>







