

Minutes
Herring River Restoration Committee (HRRC)
Cape Cod National Seashore Headquarters
Wellfleet, MA
January 12, 2017
9:30 am-5:00 pm

Members Present: Tim Smith, Steve Spear, Eric Derleth, Steve Block, Hunt Durey, Gary Joseph, Peter Herridge

Others Present: Margo Fenn, Martha Craig, Don Palladino, Helen Miranda Wilson, Carole Ridley, Christine Odiaga

Administration/Coordination:

Communications/Coordination with Friends of Herring River (FHR): Don Palladino asked that HRRC members coordinate with FHR staff regarding scopes of work for contractual work. There are several proposals still being refined; these scopes of work must be finalized and included in contracts before the consultants can begin work. Christine Odiaga has joined the FHR staff to help with project management activities.

Carole Ridley provided an update for the Committee on recent outreach activities. Margo Fenn reported on a meeting with the Cape Cod Times Editorial Board. Helen Miranda Wilson asked about other restoration projects that have resulted in benefits for shellfishing. The Committee discussed plans for a March workshop, co-sponsored by the Wellfleet Shellfish Advisory Board. Tim Smith noted that the workshop presentations should include the results of recent NPS monitoring and scientific analyses.

The Committee discussed the process for developing the vegetation management plan, which will be included in the Project permit applications. HRRC has a subcommittee working on this. In particular, the subcommittee will review and assess pertinent studies and research regarding management of *Phragmites*. Cape Cod National Seashore is updating its vegetation mapping for the estuary. This data will provide a baseline for tracking vegetation changes. The subcommittee will outline the options for vegetation management and evaluate the trade-offs of different approaches. This information will be provided to the Herring River Executive Council at a future meeting of that group.

Approval of Minutes: The Committee voted to approve the minutes of the 12/20/16 and 12/21/16 HRRC meetings.

Schedule of Meetings: The Committee approved the following schedule for upcoming meetings:

January 18, 2017	Regulatory Oversight Group
February 9, 2017	HRRC regular meeting
March 8, 2017	HRRC regular meeting
March 9, 2017	HREC regular meeting

The Committee discussed the agenda and presentations for the upcoming meeting of the Regulatory Oversight Group (ROG). The Committee reviewed how to define the Class 1 and 2 Project elements in the permit applications and how to describe the proposed Project phasing. The group agreed that there are really three classes of activities: 1) Construction of the basic Project infrastructure (e.g. CNR dike, Mill Creek dike, roadwork, on-site property mitigation in the Lower Herring River, etc.); 2) secondary management actions that will be authorized in the first set of permits (e.g. vegetation management, dredging, etc.); and 3) other work that might (or might not) be needed in the future (e.g. on-site mitigation for private properties, other secondary management actions). This third class of actions would be generally outlined in the initial permits but not authorized until permit amendments are sought at a later time.

Phasing is a slightly different issue. There are both Class 1 & 2 activities that will be needed in the first phase of the Project. The first phase of the Project could include a cap on allowable water surface elevations in the Lower Herring River. Any infrastructure and vegetation management required by that water level would have to be included in the first phase work. However, Class 3 actions would not be authorized during the first phase of Project. Permit amendments would be sought for these activities, if needed in the future. Hunt Durey will present this material to the ROG.

Discussion and Updates:

Strategic Planning and Capacity Building: Don Palladino updated the Committee on some of the priority tasks for the coming months, including fundraising, public outreach and contract management. The Committee discussed staffing needs and fundraising strategies.

Permitting: ESS will serve as the lead consultant in preparing the Project permit applications. FHR is consulting weekly with ESS to coordinate the permit preparation process. ESS needs to coordinate with the other engineering consultants to ensure that the design plans and permit narratives are permit-ready. FHR staff is compiling comments from HRRC members on the draft design plans for the CNR dike.

The Committee discussed how to structure the permit applications for Upper Pole Dike Creek and agreed that potential work in this basin would be described in the permit applications, but a permit amendment would be required at a later time in order to actually pursue restoration activities in this basin. Raising Pole Dike Road and installing a tide gate in this location would be part of the Phase 1 activities, but opening of the tide gate, vegetation management and property mitigation work would not be permitted unless and until agreements have been reached with structurally affected property owners in the basin.

The Committee also discussed plans for other sub-basins. Hunt Durey noted that a pre-application meeting is needed with the MA Department of Environmental Protection to clarify whether sediment sampling work might be needed for dredging activities.

CBI Facilitation: The Consensus Building Institute (CBI) is continuing to facilitate discussions between HRRC and the Chequessett Yacht and Country Club (CYCC). HRRC discussed a recent meeting with CYCC officials regarding a conceptual Memorandum of Agreement. Another meeting with the Club is scheduled for late January. HRRC members are also coordinating with CYCC to schedule a groundwater monitoring site visit by the US Geological Survey (USGS).

Monitoring Activities: The Committee discussed a recent proposal from USGS for ongoing water quality monitoring in the river.

Documents referred to in the meeting:

-Minutes of the 12/20/16 and 12/21/16 HRRC meetings