

Minutes
Herring River Restoration Committee (HRRC)
Cape Cod National Seashore Headquarters
Wellfleet, MA
October 15, 2015
9:30 am-5:00 pm

Members Present: Tim Smith, Eric Derleth, Steve Spear, Steve Block, Hunt Durey, Hillary Greenberg

Others Present: Margo Fenn, Martha Rheinhardt, Don Palladino, Chris Rein, Mark Borrelli, Patrick Field (by phone), Nils Wiberg (by phone), Steve Emmett-Mattox and Scott Settlemyer (by phone)

Administration/Coordination

Communications/Coordination with Friends of Herring River (FHR): Don Palladino updated the Committee on recent and upcoming events. Carrie Selberg, Deputy Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Habitat Office visited Wellfleet on October 14, 2015. FHR provided her with an overview presentation on the Restoration Project and a visit to the Project site. FHR will provide a series of three presentations at the Wellfleet Public Library in October and November regarding different aspects of the Herring River's ecology. FHR will also participate in the Wellfleet Harbor Conference in early November.

The Committee discussed fundraising and next steps for coordination with interested federal agencies and non-government organizations (NGOs). Steve Block noted that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) could possibly serve as a conduit for Project funding. The group agreed that each of the partner agencies need to brief their local and regional officials in preparation for a larger interagency meeting in the future. The fundraising effort will also need to involve interested NGOs such as The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Ducks Unlimited.

The group briefly reviewed a draft list of potential grants that could fund portions of Project construction, but noted that the available funding amounts would not be sufficient to cover the projected construction costs. Construction cost estimates need to be updated and combined with a Project phasing plan.

Approval of Minutes: The Committee voted to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2015 HRRC meeting.

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

9:30 am November 4, 2015	HRRC regular meeting
9:00 am November 5, 2015	HRRC workshop session with USGS team
1:00 pm November 5, 2015	MOU Working Group with USGS team

4:00 pm November 5, 2015
9:00 am November 6, 2015
9:00 am November 7, 2015
9:30 am December 3, 2015

Stakeholders Meeting with USGS team
Science Meeting with USGS team
Wellfleet Harbor Conference
HRRC regular meeting

Discussion and Updates:

Consensus Building Institute (CBI) Facilitation Process: Pat Field of CBI joined the meeting by phone. The Committee discussed next steps in the facilitation process with the Chequessett Yacht and Country Club (CYCC). There was a meeting with CYCC representatives on September 30, 2015 to review hydrology issues in the Mill Creek basin. There will be another facilitation session on October 23, 2015.

Chequessett Neck Road (CNR) bridge and tide gates: Nils Wiberg of Fuss & O'Neill joined the meeting by phone. He provided the Committee with an update on engineering design for the CNR bridge. There will be contract amendments to address several new components of the design, including water access facilities, a temporary bridge design during construction and provisions for USGS monitoring equipment on the bridge.

Mill Creek Dike: The Committee reviewed three different alignments and cost estimates for the Mill Creek dike prepared by Fuss & O'Neill. The Committee discussed the impacts of the different options, including wetland impacts, amount of restoration area and effects on Riverfront area resources. The Committee asked Fuss & O'Neill to quantify the comparative wetland impacts and restoration area for each option. The group agreed that the survey should include the area of all three options. Further archaeological investigations are needed for the access road route. Alternative #3 was the Committee's preferred option, pending the outcome of the archaeological work.

Don Palladino suggested that there is an opportunity to create a walking trail in conjunction with the Mill Creek dike that would connect High Toss Road, Snake Creek Road, Mill Creek, Chequessett Neck Road and Duck Harbor Road. This would require some kind of crossing at Mill Creek. The Committee noted that there would be safety issues with allowing the public to cross the catwalk on the dike, and suggested that the trail idea would need to be reviewed with Cape Cod National Seashore officials.

High Toss Road: Martha Rheinhardt reported that she had just received a revised proposal from ESS for High Toss Road design.

Low-lying Road Design: FHR has signed an amended contract with the Louis Berger Group (LBG) for the next phase of low-lying road engineering and analysis.

Rare Species: The wildlife experts hired to monitor state-listed species (including birds, reptiles and insects) will meet with staff of the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) in November to review work to date. The next phase of work will be determined following that consultation.

Other Low-lying Roads and Common Driveways: FHR is still waiting for a proposal from LBG for this work.

Adaptive Management Monitoring: HRRC has received draft proposals from the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies (CCS) and the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) for several types of scientific monitoring and analysis related to the Adaptive Management Plan. CCS has proposed to do water quality monitoring/analysis and MBL would perform stable isotope analysis. This work is needed to establish baseline monitoring information for the adaptive management process. In addition, the Woods Hole Group (WHG) has suggested that FHR purchase stream monitoring equipment for the Project. The group discussed how best to install, operate and retrieve data from such equipment, noting that this needs to be part of an integrated system for data management for the whole Restoration Project.

Mark Borrelli of CCS joined the meeting to discuss another potential proposal to collect and analyze bathymetric data and side-scan imagery of the Lower Herring River area. CCS has been performing work of this kind elsewhere on Cape Cod, and believes that it is possible to design and build a boat suitable to conduct these analyses in the shallow waters of the Lower Herring River.

The Committee discussed this idea and agreed that it would be useful information to have for sediment modeling and monitoring. The group also suggested that CCS include collection of core samples in appropriate locations in the lower river. FHR could contract with CCS to perform these services in the spring of 2016.

Blue Carbon: Steve Emmett-Mattox of Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) and Scott Settelmyer of TerraCarbon joined the meeting by phone to discuss questions RAE's proposal to prepare a market feasibility analysis for blue carbon trading using the Herring River Restoration Project as a case study. They explained the purpose of a larger Blue Carbon study that they are engaged in with the Waquoit Bay Estuarine Research Reserve (WBNERR). HRRC members asked about legal questions related to ownership of land in the estuary. They also suggested breaking down the blue carbon analysis by sub-basins within the estuary, given that most of the land in Mill Creek and Upper Pole Dike Creek is privately owned. They asked for more specifics about project deliverables.

Other Business: There were a number of other work program items that the HRRC did not have time to discuss in detail. Eric Derleth suggested reordering the agenda at the next meeting to ensure that these items are addressed. Hunt Durey noted that ESS had submitted a revised schedule of deliverables for the draft regulatory compliance plan. Hunt Durey also noted that he is working on a larger scope of work for the next phase of the regulatory strategy and will be seeking input from Chris Rein and Steve Block on that.

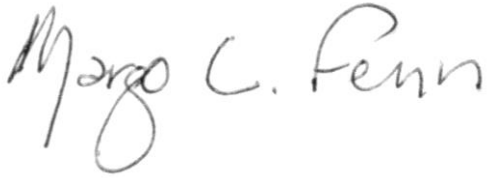
Tim Smith and Eric Derleth reported that they had been working with Kirk Bosma of WHG to define the next steps for the Graphic User Interface (GUI). There are still deliverables outstanding for the first phase of the GUI, and they need to better define the

tasks and deliverables for GUI phase 2.

Documents Referred to in the Meeting:

- Minutes of the 9/17/15 HRRC Meeting

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margo C. Fenn". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Margo Fenn, Herring River Restoration Project Coordinator