

Minutes
Herring River Restoration Committee (HRRC)
Atlantic Learning Center Classroom
Highland Center
Old Dewline Road
North Truro, MA
Thursday, June 18, 2105
9:30 am-5:00 pm

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

Others Present: Margo Fenn, Martha Rheinhardt, Don Palladino

Administration/Coordination:

Approval of Minutes: The Committee voted to approve the Minutes of the May 18, 2015 HRRC meeting.

Meeting Schedule: The Committee agreed on the following schedule for upcoming meetings:

July 21, 2015	HRRC regular meeting
August 13, 2015	HRRC regular meeting

Communications and Coordination with Friends of Herring River (FHR): Don Palladino reported that the job announcement for the Executive Director position had been posted. The group discussed a schedule and process for review of candidates, and agreed on the following approach:

June 30, 2015: FHR to begin screening candidate submissions - applications due June 30 but will be received until selection because of late posting on some organizational job opportunities boards.

July 15, 2015: FHR to provide list of candidates and documents (on line) to screening committee. Include scorecard and criteria to evaluate candidates.

July 28, 2015-10 am: Two hour conference call to review applications and select candidates for interview.

August 12-14, 2015: Interviews (HRRC meeting is on August 13).

The proposed screening committee will include Hunt Durey, Steve Block, Margo Fenn, Tim Smith and Don Palladino. FHR will invite the Towns of Wellfleet and Truro to review the candidates chosen for interview. A smaller group will conduct interviews with the top candidates.

Discussion & Updates:

FY15 DER and NOAA Year 2 Budget Modifications: Hunt Durey reminded the group that all deliverables under the FY15 DER contract must be completed by June 30, 2015.

Draft work plan for FY16 DER and NOAA Year 3: The Committee reviewed and discussed a draft work plan and budget for the upcoming year. The work plan includes projected funding under the NOAA grant (Year 3) and proposed FY 2016 funding under the MA Capital Budget. The Committee reviewed progress to date on Project design tasks, and discussed next steps for each task to determine projected funding needs.

Permitting: The Committee discussed the permitting strategy for the Project, including vegetation management needed for Class 1 permitting. The group agreed that HRRC could conduct geospatial analysis to determine footprint of initial vegetation impacts. The group discussed what will likely be needed to prepare aspects of a vegetation management plan including access, staging machinery, disposal, and erosion control.

HRAM: Tim Smith reported on ongoing efforts to develop the Herring River Adaptive Management Plan (HRAM). The HRAM group is developing a portfolio of actions. Tim Smith noted that an “on the ground” restoration plan is needed. He is working on detailed description of the HRAM for the final EIS/EIR.

Fundraising: Federal funds cannot be used for lobbying, but could be used for educational materials and public outreach. Don Palladino noted that he had not heard back from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) regarding funding advice. Hunt Durey asked if TNC could help with legal agreements with landowners.

Committee members also discussed getting together regional administrators from all the partner federal agencies, which might be difficult. Tim Smith suggested scheduling a public event for Final EIS/EIR release. Steve Block suggested a conference call among the agencies. The Committee agreed to invite the agency officials to meet after the ROD is issued. A briefing package for the call should be prepared and sent out.

LLP Mitigation Policies: HRRC members recommended that the DOI solicitor and town attorneys be asked review the draft LLP mitigation policies. Tim Smith suggested refining vegetation impacts in more detail based on new imagery.

Other Project Updates:

CNR Dike: Fuss and O’Neill is coordinating with utility companies; a town contact person for the utility companies needs to be identified; all required items have been submitted to the MA Department of Transportation (DOT).

Mill Creek Dike: Fuss and O’Neill thinks that the upland access route to construct the dike may be feasible based on desktop mapping. Tim Smith will to ask Nils Wiberg about most efficient layout for the proposed dike- straight v. dogleg. A survey has not yet been scheduled.

High Toss Road: HRRC discussed concerns with Option A+ as well as Town's suggestion to leave a slightly elevated roadway. ESS will add narrative to its report discussing pros and cons of leaving slightly elevated roadway with swales in place.

Low Roadwork: Discussion centered on Upper Pole Dike modeling by WHG. There was a glitch in the modeling, which affect the results in the report. Corrected work will be submitted by the end of next week. Freshwater input should not be a concern and there should be no drainage problem. HRRC will want to know what is the incremental differential in discharge.

Cultural Resources: The Public Archaeology Lab (PAL) has submitted its report to the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) and is waiting for comments from MHC.