

**Minutes**  
**Herring River Restoration Committee (HRRC)**  
**Cape Cod National Seashore Headquarters**  
**Wellfleet, MA**  
**August 13, 2015**  
**9:30 am-5:00 pm**

**Members Present:** Tim Smith, Eric Derleth, Steve Spear, Steve Block, Hunt Durey, Charleen Greenhalgh

**Others Present:** Margo Fenn, Martha Rheinhardt, Don Palladino, John Portnoy, Kirk Bosma (by phone), Nils Wiberg

**Administration/Coordination:**

**Communications/Coordination with Friends of Herring River (FHR):** Don Palladino reported that there was an August 4<sup>th</sup> press conference with the MA Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Matthew Beaton to announce the FY16 DER funding for the Restoration Project. FHR board members led a canoe and kayak trip on the river as part of the event. Interviews have begun for the FHR Executive Director position and the annual meeting is planned for August 18, 2015.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Committee voted to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2015 HRRC meeting.

**Schedule of Meetings:** The Committee agreed upon the following schedule for upcoming meetings:

September 17, 2015	HRRC regular meeting
October 15, 2015	HRRC regular meeting

**Discussion and Updates:**

**Review of Hydrodynamic Modeling Report:** The Committee discussed the results of a recent technical memorandum, prepared by the Woods Hole Group (WHG). The memorandum evaluated the combined effect of storm surge and rainfall events for the main river basin and one of the upper sub-basins. The report evaluates potential utilization of a secondary control mechanism at the Pole Dike Road crossing to limit high water levels within the Upper Pole Dike Creek system after opening of the Chequessett Neck Road (CNR) dike. The results presented include a brief summary of existing conditions within Upper Pole Dike Creek; analysis of the Pole Dike Road culvert to allow maximum tidal exchange (if warranted at some point in the future); impacts of potential closure of the Upper Pole Dike system on overall water levels in the rest of the Herring River estuary; assessment of potential precipitation based flooding; and evaluation of potential impacts associated with a tidal control intended to protect private properties in the Upper Pole Dike Creek basin.

Kirk Bosma of WHG joined the discussion by phone. The group discussed the tradeoffs

between active and passive management of the tide gates at both CNR and Pole Dike Road. The group agreed that further analysis and discussion are needed to identify tide management options that consider drainage in the upper basins and combined storm surge and precipitation events.

**NOAA Year 3 and DER FY16 Work Plans:** The Committee spent the remainder of the meeting reviewing next steps for the myriad work tasks outlined in the NOAA and DER grant contracts.

**CNR Bridge and Tide Gate Design:** Nils Wiberg joined the meeting to review Fuss & O'Neill's work on the Chequessett Neck Road (CNR) bridge and the Mill Creek dike design. He reviewed two issues raised by the MA Department of Transportation (DOT) in the 25% design review process for the CNR bridge. The first issue relates to an alternative approach to providing a temporary bridge structure during construction; the second issue relates to installation of tide and water monitoring equipment on the bridge structure. Further engineering analysis is necessary to address these design questions.

Nils Wiberg presented some graphics to illustrate the proposed water access improvements adjacent to the CNR bridge structure. A new parking area is proposed west of the bridge with an ADA accessible path leading down to a canoe/kayak launching site. There will also be steps at the west end of the bridge to provide a place to portage boats over the bridge. These plans will be presented during the FHR annual meeting.

**Mill Creek Dike:** Nils Wiberg presented a brief overview of the alternatives analysis for access to, and location of the Mill Creek dike. The Committee discussed next steps for this task.

Tim Smith requested that Nils Wiberg prepare an estimate/proposal for remaining final designs, specifications, and bid documents for the CNR and Mill Creek dikes (beyond the work described in the existing contract with Fuss & O'Neill).

The Committee discussed how best to organize supervision of the FHR technical consultants. The group agreed the HRRC technical leads must be directly involved with all aspects of their assigned tasks, including developing scopes of work, draft and final contracts, contract amendments, and approving invoices and deliverables. However, it is critical that both the HRRC leads and FHR (Don Palladino and Martha Rheinhardt) be copied on all communications. Further discussion of the management structure is needed, especially when the FHR Executive Director begins work. Hunt Durey suggested that each HRRC task lead develop proposed milestones and schedules for their tasks prior to the September HRRC meeting.

**High Toss Road:** Martha Rheinhardt reported that the ESS Group had recently submitted a new proposed scope of work and budget for High Toss Road.

**Pole Dike, Old County and Bound Brook Road Design:** Steve Block reported that additional work is needed to layout the road designs to avoid encroachment on private and NPS lands.

**Other Low-lying Road Design:** A new contract is needed with the LBG to do this work.

**Low-lying Properties:** Martha Rheinhardt reported on a recent meeting with a Wellfleet property owner. Several property surveys have now been completed and owners are interested to see the results. The Committee agreed that meetings should be set up with those property owners for whom surveys have been completed. In addition, Louis Berger Group (LBG) and Slade Associates should be directed to proceed with work on the next group of properties, and to prepare mitigation plans, where appropriate.

**Permitting:** The Committee reviewed a recent proposal received regarding preparation of the Development of Regional Impact (DRI) application to the Cape Cod Commission. The group agreed that the cost of the proposal was excessive. The Committee discussed the proposed approach to permitting. Hunt Durey reported that the ESS Group would be asked to prepare a comprehensive outline of what permit level plans need to contain. Using that template, each of the engineering design consultants would be asked to develop a regulatory compliance report, which can serve as the basis for the narrative in regulatory applications.

**Rare Species:** The Committee discussed what would be needed to address concerns about rare species impacts in the Adaptive Management Plan. Tim Smith suggested setting up another meeting with the MA Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) staff and the rare species consultants in the fall. He noted that NHESP will want to review recent data and proposed monitoring plans for affected rare species.

**Blue Carbon:** Tim Smith reported that the Waquoit Bay Estuarine Research Reserve (WBNERR) proposal regarding Blue Carbon would be funded. Previously identified FHR matching funds (\$25,000) are now needed for a GHG marketing feasibility study.

**Tide Monitoring:** Tim Smith reported on activities by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to install water quality and tide monitoring equipment on the existing CNR dike. NPS, HRRC, and FHR officials plan to meet with USGS on August 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss additional USGS data collection in the project area.

There was insufficient time to complete review of other FY16 work program tasks during the meeting.

**Documents Referred to in the Meeting:**

-Minutes of the July 21, 2015 Meeting

-Woods Hole Group, Technical Memorandum, July 23, 2015