

Minutes

Herring River Restoration Committee (HRRC) Meeting

Cape Cod National Seashore Headquarters

Wellfleet, MA

Wednesday, November 8, 2018

9:30 am

HRRC Members present: Hillary Lemos, Hunt Durey, Steve Block, Eric Derleth, Steve Spear, Tim Smith, Peter Herridge. Others present: Helen Wilson, Beth Chapman, Christine Odiaga, Martha Craig, Carole Ridley

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 am

Administration/Coordination:

Minutes of October 10, 2018 were approved on a motion by Steve Block and second by Peter Herridge. The vote was unanimous.

The committee reviewed and agreed on the following schedule for upcoming HRRC meetings:

HRRC - Wednesday, December 19, 2018

HRRC – Thursday, January 17, 2019

HRRC – Thursday February 7, 2019

Discussion & Updates:

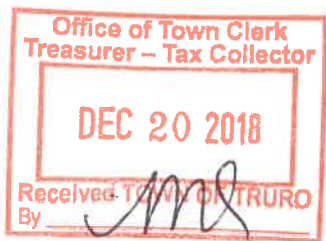
Groundwater and Mean Water Level

The committee discussed the status of the draft report which is intended to describe the basic science of the freshwater/saltwater relationship in aquifers on Cape Cod, addressing the potential effect of restored tidal flow in the Herring River on groundwater quality; and summarize the findings of previous hydrological assessments of the effects of tidal restoration in a few private, domestic wells that are in low-lying areas within the Herring River basin and within a short distance of saltwater at high tide.

In December Hillary will report on work she and John Portnoy are doing related to develop a program for additional well baseline monitoring.

HRRC Subcommittees and Assignments

The committee discussed the role of the coordination sub group that coordinates implementation of action items that come out of monthly HRRC meetings. All agreed that this is not a decision making group but could help to identify priority issues that require action or further discussion. It was also agreed that the committee structure for the Herring River restoration is unlike any other restoration project and that efficiency of processing information and making decisions could be achieved through alternate organizational structures. Organizational options will be explored, to determine their feasibility, potential effectiveness and steps that would be needed to implement them.



Permitting

The status of the Cape Cod Commission filing was discussed.

The committee was updated on a recent pre-application meeting with Cape Cod Commission staff, in which no new issues or questions were raised. CYCC is reviewing a draft Cape Cod Commission filing and comments are anticipated. Christine reviewed outstanding questions related to project plans for the filing. It was determined that all laydown areas for Phase 1 project elements should be shown on plans, in addition to the limits of disturbance. The filing package should be completed soon and will be circulated to the HRRC in its final form when ready.

The question of notice for the Commission's meeting was discussed. The Commission's regulations only require posting at the County offices, and the Commission asked for input on this. It was the consensus of the committee to ask the Commission to augment the county posting by also posting the meeting with the two towns and to place an advertisement in the Banner.

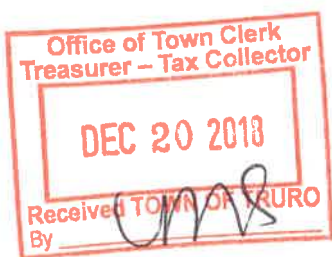
The committee discussed the status of the towns' efforts to install new project counsel. Both towns have appointed counsel for the project. The next step is to schedule a briefing of the counsels prior to a next Herring River Executive Council meeting. The committee was polled as to whether the committee should insist on a single briefing of both counsels. While a single briefing was preferred by most, it was felt that this decision is up to the towns.

The committee was asked about the degree of sign off it wanted on the application package. Eric moved to confirm that the HRRC is satisfied with the application package, and to authorize the permitting subcommittee to make any last edits in response to comments by CYCC or a town, and to prepare the final package and provide it for signature and submission to the Commission, and to exercise its judgment if any issues raised in this process require discussion by the full HRRC. Peter seconded the motion and it was voted unanimously.

Under other permitting, the permitting subcommittee is currently reviewing the status of contracts for permitting support and will assess whether any changes are necessary, and will report any resulting recommendations back to the HRRC.

Budget Priorities for FY19

Martha provided a summary of the budget status and priorities for FY 19. There is 1.2 million in grant funding for FY19. Of that, \$560,000 is committed under existing contracts, and 650,000 is uncommitted. The budget priorities identify the tasks and associated budgets to make the most efficient use of the remaining uncommitted funds. Several proposals were just received and still under review. Further refinement of proposed task budgets and priority assignments is needed. Martha will pursue these refinements with the subcommittees and provide a refined budget at the December meeting.



The NRCS Technical Assistance grant proposal will track the FY budget priorities and be targeted to any proposed tasks that are not covered by existing grants. This too will be discussed in greater detail in December.

Voted on December 19, 2018

