

Meeting Minutes

Herring River Restoration Committee (HRRC) Meeting
Cape Cod National Seashore Headquarters, Wellfleet, MA
Thursday, April 11, 2019, 9:30 am

Attending: HRRC members: Tim Smith, Steve Block, Steve Spear, Hunt Durey, Eric Derleth, Hillary Greenberg-Lemos; Others attending: Brian Carlstrom (9:30 to 10:15), Martha Craig (9:30-12:00), Christine Odiaga, Helen Miranda Wilson, Carole Ridley

Administration/Coordination:

Minutes of the March 6, 2019 HRRC meeting were approved on a motion by Steve Block and second by Hillary Greenberg-Lemos (6-0-0).

-Schedule Next Meetings:

HRRC – Tuesday, May 21, 2019

HRRC – Thursday, June 13, 2019

Discussion & Updates:

-Update from National Park Service (NPS)

Brian Carlstrom reported that CCNS is proceeding through the necessary steps associated with a funding request for construction of the Mill Creek dike. He also reported interest in the project expressed by representatives of the National Parks Foundation (NPF). He will seek to put members of the Project team in contact with the NPF so that they can learn more about the Project. The HRRC and Superintendent also discussed plans and logistics for an upcoming meeting of state and federal agency representatives.

-Project Timeline and Fundraising

The HRRC reviewed a baseline budget dated September 2017, to reflect refinements in Project design and new information. A summary of this budget will be made available to state and federal agency representatives.

Martha updated the HRRC on the status of a grant application to be submitted to NOAA. Because the NOAA grant may not be funded fully, the HRRC was in agreement that Friends of Herring River would also pursue a maximum request under the coastal resiliency grant offered by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Steve Spear reported that the technical assistance funding from NRCS is still in process and he is monitoring closely.

-Permitting

Carole provided the HRRC with an update since the March 7 Cape Cod Commission subcommittee decision to ratify the limited scope decision. The Development of Regional (DRI) application is in process. A pre-application meeting with Commission staff took place and was helpful in clarifying requirements. Subsequent pre-application meetings may be scheduled. The target date for submission of the DRI is late May or

early June. That timeline means that public hearing could possibly take place during the summer months. The Commission is still mulling how to organize the hearing.

A pre-application meeting also was held with MassDEP staff to review Ch. 91, 401 and Wetlands Protection Act requirements. A similar meeting should be held with Army Corps of Engineers to discuss requirements. Tim will follow up with Alan Anacheka-Nasemann about the next steps with Army Corp.

Christine reported on discussions with the Wellfleet Harbormaster regarding information required by the Coast Guard to evaluate the applicability of a permit. Hillary will arrange a meeting with the Harbormaster to review plans. Nils Wiberg will be invited to attend if he is already on Cape. Christine also gave a run down on outstanding regulatory compliance reports for different project elements and the next steps to completing those reports.

-Herring River Stakeholder Group

The HRSG is ready to restart meetings. They are looking at possible dates in May and June. The May meeting could focus on shellfish issues. However, it is likely that this presentation would summarize previous presentations to forums co-sponsored with the Shellfish Advisory Board. For this reason, it may not bring out a big crowd of shellfishermen. Martha will coordinate with the Shellfish Advisory Board to see if there are particular issues to address in a presentation. Carole and Martha will talk with Bill Biewenga about whether it might make sense to reschedule the shellfish discussion. Helen noted that a new group, the Wellfleet Shellfish Association, has been formed and may also be a good source of input.

Tim Smith described proposed a seafloor mapping project that is planned for the summer/fall that would establish a baseline for evaluating sediment movement pre- and post restoration. There also will be sediment sampling taking place. He would like to schedule a meeting with the SAB in the near term to describe the research. Once the research is complete, perhaps in a year, it could be shared with the SAB and others. It was also reported that the hydrological model has been expanded to include more of Wellfleet Harbor, and so sediment transport modules could be undertaken if advisable.

-Herring River Executive Council

Carole described changes under review in response to the Truro Select Board vote to remove the town from Phase 1, and other refinements. The counsels for the towns and CCNS have been conferring to develop the documents.

Truro's exist from the project will be implemented by an amendment to MOUs II and III. CCNS and the Town of Wellfleet will enter into a new MOU IV. One of the key issues is how decisions will be made with a smaller number of members, whether by consensus or vote. Now that the project is moving into implementation, and the HREC is the decision-making board, the HRRC will be classified as a technical working group advisory to the HREC. The HRRC members present felt that a name change was appropriate if possible.

-Preconstruction Monitoring

The USGS Groundwater monitoring report is under peer review.

The USGS surface water quality report draft was just received and is being reviewed by the HRRC monitoring subcommittee. The subcommittee is looking at options for continuing the nutrient monitoring. Monitoring equipment will be deployed as early as this summer on a test basis that could prove to be an effective means. Data from other monitoring efforts are also being compiled and analyzed. There is time to assimilate this new information and develop a continuing monitoring program for baseline purposes.

-Adaptive Management Plan

The science elicitation website is close to being ready for beta testing. A call is being scheduled to discuss the collection of data for the social factors, and this could involve the Herring River Stakeholders Group.

-Status of Other Work Program Tasks:

CYCC: PAL cultural assessments on the golf course did not result in any findings that would require a change in plans. Mass Historical has provided a verbal approval of the findings. On that basis, Steve will ask the golf course designers to go ahead and complete the design plans.

Work is beginning on the pump design contract also.

Low-lying property survey/engineering: Steve Spear is communicating with counsels for the Town of Wellfleet and CCNS regarding High Toss Road. Another meeting to review information is needed. Carole will send proposed agenda topics and also a doodle poll for the meeting. Once this meeting has taken place and meeting will be scheduled with town officials (police, fire, DPW, etc.) to review plans for High Toss Road.

The HRRC discussed the status of identifying encroachments onto CCNS land from road elevations. Tim will send the list of NPS bounds to Louis Berger Group to make sure they have the accurate CNS boundary. They will then create a shape file of permanent impacts and send this to Tim to overlay on NPS parcel data. The NPS Lands Office would then take the information and develop surveys and legal description.

Rare species monitoring: Tim will contact Massachusetts NHESP to set up a follow up meeting to get their comments on the proposed outline for the habitat management plan. This will also be an opportunity to review updated turtle data with them.

April 11, 2019 minutes were approved by HRRC on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 and submitted by Carole Ridley, Project Coordinator.

