

Approved Minutes of Herring River Restoration Committee
CCNS - Marconi Station Headquarters

17 January 2008

Members attending: Gary Joseph (Wellfleet), Eric Derleth (US FWS), Charlene Greenhalgh (Truro), Steve Spear (NRCS), Steve Block (NOAA), Tim Smith (MCZM-MWRP), John Portnoy (CCNS)

Others attending: Hilary Greenberg (Wellfleet Conservation Agent), Helen M. Wilson (Wellfleet Shellfish Advisory Committee), Jack Whelan (Chequesset Yacht and Country Club)

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM.

Gary Joseph was unanimously elected to chair the HRRC.

We went over the HRRC's charge per the recently signed MOU II.

Portnoy will bring additional copies of the Conceptual Restoration Plan (CRP) to our next meeting.

Members expressed a need to discuss at least two specific technical issues:

1. Mill Creek hydrology
2. Consideration of state-listed rare species within the flood plain

It was agreed that the Detailed Restoration Plan cannot be definitive until a preferred alternative is selected for the final EIS.

Greenhalgh: An EIR will trigger the Cape Cod Commission (CCC) to treat the project as a Development of Regional Impact (DRI), so they should be involved in project development. **Joseph will email Commission Executive Director Paul Niedzwiecki, inviting a CCC representative to our next meeting.** Portnoy had talked with CCC Water Resources chief Tom Cambareri, who suggested that Stacey Justus would be an appropriate Commission representative.

It was agreed to meet with the MEPA office staff (planned for 28 January) prior to ENF submission.

Rare species: It was agreed to meet with MESA, DEP and, if possible, Cape Cod Commission after the MEPA meeting and before ENF submission. Block suggested that we try to do this at the quarterly Southeastern Mass Regulatory meeting during 1st week in March. **Smith will set this up.**

It was agreed that we don't yet need a funding working group, because funding opportunities are already being tracked by agency members.

Alternate HRRC members will be: Greenhalgh and Pat Pajaron for Truro; Greenberg for Wellfleet.

Recording minutes: **Joseph will check with Wellfleet on paying a note taker.** There was discussion of possible sharing the cost among Wellfleet, Truro and CCNS.

Workload. It was agreed that the seven committee members could not handle all the work associated with the project, and that working groups would be set up as needed, including committee members plus technical assistants from our list of volunteers.

Current funding: MCZM-MWRP has some money, if a need arises, but it must be spent by the end of June. FWS has \$10K, and NPS about \$80K at Coastal America Foundation for EIS preparation.

Smith emphasized that this long-term and highly complicated project needs a lead project manager, which could be funded through, and employed by, an existing private foundation (e.g. Wellfleet and Truro Conservation Trusts) or a new dedicated “Friends of Herring River”.

Mill Creek and CYCC: Block suggested that ENF be delayed to allow time to resolve how to deal with the CYCC fairways and other structures in the Mill Creek sub-basin. Smith and Spear suggested that the cost of CYCC relocation be re-examined, possibly including a redesign to reduce the costs. The committee discussed at length various alternatives for Mill Creek. Derleth stressed the need to resolve this soon. It was agreed to describe the situation to MEPA staff, when we meet on the 28th, and ask their advice on when to submit the ENF. Block: we should consider using some of the MWRP funds, available now, for more study of Mill Creek alternatives.

Most members will travel to Boston on 28 January to discuss the project with MEPA. Our next regular HRRC meeting will be at the Wellfleet Senior Center on 29 January at 1 PM with an in-depth discussion of the federal EIS process. The following meeting will be on 21 February at 1 PM, probably at Seashore headquarters.

The meeting was adjourned at 2 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Portnoy