

## Minutes of **Herring River Restoration Committee**

CCNS Headquarters

21 May 2008

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

Others attending: Larry Dingman, retired hydrologist and adviser to HRRC. Craig Wood and Spence Smith represented the Louis Berger Group (LBG).

Minutes of the 3 April meeting were accepted unanimously.

### **Woods Hole Group hydrodynamic model**

The model is up and running for existing conditions, but requires additional calibration. The next step is to propose an initial set of restoration scenarios to be run using the model; for this purpose WHG will be asked to attend our next meeting.

Portnoy reported that Carrie Phillips and he plan to submit **Notice of Intent to undertake the EIS** to the NPS regional office by next week.

### **Project Notification Form for Mass. Historical Commission review.**

A phone conference was held on 16 May with LBG staff, Derleth, Portnoy, Bill Burke (CCNS Historian and Cultural Resources Chief), and T. Smith to discuss the PNF and interaction of the project with the MHC. Bill plans to submit the PNF with a cover letter referencing the previous PNF submitted by LBG for CYCC fairway relocation. Spear recommended contacting Chuck Green, the Mashpee Wampanoag's cultural resource person, to inform the tribe about the project.

### **Cooperating agencies for the EIS.**

Derleth reported that FWS will participate as a cooperating agency through an agreement with the NPS, the federal "lead agency" for the NEPA process. Spear reported that he hasn't an answer yet from NRCS. T. Smith said that NOAA may already have a programmatic environmental assessment that satisfies their involvement under NEPA, but S. Block is checking on this.

### **MEPA – Special Review Procedure**

T. Smith, having recently met with Assistant Director Richard Bourre of MEPA, provided HRRC with a draft letter requesting an SRP for the project and suggesting that the HRRC serve as a Citizen's Advisory Committee. We discussed the relationship between the Stakeholder's Group and the HRRC with reference to impending public scoping for the EIS/EIR and continued public involvement. It was recommended that Tim add a mention of the Stakeholders Group's charge and past involvement in the letter to MEPA. With this addition, it was moved (Greenhalgh), seconded (Portnoy) and unanimously voted to approve Tim's letter requesting a SRP, subject to inclusion of reference to the Stakeholder's Group and some minor edits from Derleth and Portnoy.

Based on further discussions with the MEPA office, the plan is to submit an **ENF narrative** in place of the standard Environmental Notification form, because of the complexity and phased nature of the project. Berger should nevertheless cover whatever topic would normally appear in the Environmental Monitor as both bulleted and more narrative text.

We discussed the **figures needed for the ENF narrative**; these are included in C. Wood's Action Items below.

*Action items per Craig Wood of Louis Berger Group:*

*LBG – send comment matrix to HRRC for MEPA and Chapt 1 comments [sent – May 22]*

*LBG – include information from the 1<sup>st</sup> couple pages of the ENF in the MEPA narrative*

*LBG – develop short project description at the beginning of the MEPA narrative that will be published in the Env. Monitor*

*LBG – revise the CYCC analysis/memorandum based on verification of fill volumes*

*HRRC/Charlene – consolidate MEPA review comments and provide to LBG by June 2*

*HRRC/John – consolidate EIS Chapt 1 review comments and provide to LBG by June 6 (shortly after June 4)*

*HRRC/Tim & John – Revise/provide to LBG MEPA/EIS figures; Fig 1 – project area;*

*Fig 2 – historical USGS; Fig 3 – sub-basins*

*HRRC/John – Provide guidance on anticipated seasonal high groundwater elevations in the vicinity of the low-lying fairways of CYCC to consider lowering anticipated fairway fill volumes*

*HRRC – provide LBG with 2007 updated [golf course](#) cost estimates.*

*HRRC – discuss strategy for developing further discussions with CYCC about reconfiguration of the golf course, and then contact Howard Mauer (or let LBG contact him) to discuss cost assumptions.*

### **Chequesset Yacht & Country Club**

Craig Wood presented Berger Group's recent work on elevating portions of the five low fairways and practice area, with estimates of fill volume, area and costs. He estimates that filling will cost about \$700, 000 per foot of depth. A long discussion ensued on the effects of tidal restoration on groundwater and surface water elevations in Mill Creek and the CYCC, with and without a dike at Mill Creek, and with and without berms to isolate the low fairways from surface flow. Portnoy will produce a series of graphics to show effects, based on hydrologic theory and local studies.

### **Draft Chapter 1 of EIS**

Comments are needed (to Portnoy) by 4 June for consolidation and forward to Berger.

### **Army Corps of Engineers involvement in Herring River project**

Chairman Joseph related Congressman Delahunt's and Mark Forest's interest in the ACOE helping with the project. Most members of the committee have concerns with the COE applying their own bureaucratically required schedule that will likely be well

behind that of other project partners and may slow ongoing progress. It was agreed that the HRRC should meet with Forest to discuss this, perhaps at our next meeting.

Our next meeting is planned for 9 June at 10 AM at Seashore Headquarters in the downstairs conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

John Portnoy