

Herring River Restoration Committee
9 June 2008

Cape Cod National Seashore Headquarters

Members Attending: Gary Joseph, Chairman (Wellfleet), Eric Derleth (USFWS), Steve Spear (NRCS), Tim Smith (MCZM-MWRP), John Portnoy (CCNS), Steve Block (NOAA), Charleen Greenhalgh (Truro)

Others attending: Bill Dahl, Jack Whelan and Rich Morassi for the CYCC, and Don Palladino

Minutes of the 21 May meeting were accepted unanimously.

I

NEPA Document Review

Chapter 1 first draft of the EIS and ENF were edited by the HRRC and sent to the Berger Group. To fulfill Smith's contract we must review and comment on a second draft with incorporated comments from Berger Group. Next task will be conducting public scoping meetings and documenting comments and then developing the rest of the Draft EIS. Chapter 1 will be reviewed prior to expanding contract with Berger Group. Also HRRC must see how much money we have left to spend on draft EIS prior to awarding further contracts. HRRC will proceed and get a cost estimate from Berger Group. HRRC will recommend to the Park Service to continue with Berger Group. Motion made by Steve Spear, Seconded by Gary Joseph, vote unanimous in favor.

Status of Federal Notice of Intent: on track to be published in the Federal Register in time for planned public scoping meetings this summer. We should be able to meet the timetable that we had already established.

II

MEPA Document Review

ENF and decision on Special Review Procedure will go in the Environmental Monitor the last week of June. Would it be beneficial to have the Special Review Procedure request come out in an earlier monitor? Citizens would then have two weeks to object to the procedure. The HRRC has asked MEPA if HRRC can serve as the Citizens Advisory Committee. The State should have a higher comfort level as this project will go through the NEPA process as well. Submittal by June 27 of the ENF would allow publication by (?) July 9.

III

Hydrodynamic Modeling Status

Rex Peterson is in the process of submitting the required paperwork to the Gulf of Maine Council for reimbursement in the amount of \$26,049.60 for the services provided by the Woods Hole Group. Committee voted unanimously to approve reimbursement funding. Smith will contact Peterson regarding HRRC's satisfaction with work to date.

IV

Structure of Public Scoping Meetings

The scoping session could include: posters, presentations, small group discussions, paper and pencils for questions, input, email addresses for electronic submission of commentary. Meeting may commence with one presentation and then a break down into smaller groups for various topic discussions or one large group discussion covering all topics. Guidance must be sought from Lindsay Gillham (NPS, Environmental Quality Division) and Berger Group. A request will be made to Berger Group from Tim Smith for a scope of work and budget public scoping preparation and whole scoping process including final scoping report. Berger will be needed for 4 meetings, once before scoping meeting, two public scoping meetings, and a follow up meeting after the 60 day comment period.

First public scoping meeting will be 14 August 2008, 2:00 PM at the Wellfleet Council on Aging. This will be to satisfy both NEPA and MEPA compliance. Portnoy will contact Cape Cod Commission about their involvement in this process.

Second meeting will be 24 September 2008, 7:00 PM

Joint press release will be needed announcing meeting in a daily newspaper.

Topics for discussion:

Low lying properties

CYCC

Private property and infrastructure

Public Property and infrastructure

Habitat Change & Vegetation and wildlife Management

Water Quality

Shellfish / Fisheries

Mosquitoes

Dike Management

Long term O&M, adaptive management

Cultural Resources

VI

CYCC Charette

Brief discussion ensued regarding yellowbook appraisal from CYCC members. There may be an appeal process although the process and lag time is unknown. Work was done under the auspices to request funds through cost share grants. This was a preemptive action to get ahead of the curve for future funding. Rich Morassi and Barbara Boone (CYCC) will review current appraisal and submit comments to HRRC.

Barbara Boone (CYCC) was going to discuss the concept of a CR on a piece of the golf course with the Board of Directors and report back to the HRRC.

It was suggested that a subcommittee, including land-management professionals, be formed to assess alternatives for all low-lying properties including the CYCC. Members could include a local CR specialist, a CR specialist from the Nature Conservancy, Tim Smith (CZM), and Eric Derleth (USFWS). Derleth will have a discussion with Dave McGowen and report back to HRRC and CYCC.

VII

CCNS Negotiations

Phillips will speak with George Price about bringing private property issues within the Herring River floodplain, specifically private properties within the CCNS boundary, back to the fore front of tasks.

Motion: Steve Block Moves to send a letter to George Price inquiring how the Park will handle Seashore representation on the HRRC with John Portnoy's retirement. Seconded by Eric Derleth, vote is unanimous.

The Committee knows John is irreplaceable however we understand that there will be someone filling his seat as the NPS representative on the HRRC until his position is filled. Once John is retired the park plans on hiring a restoration ecologist.

VIII

Mark Forrest Meeting

Delahunt's office is 100% behind the project. All issues were discussed at this meeting including the golf course. Rapport must be kept with CYCC. Forrest would like to stay involved with the Herring River Restoration. Forward momentum should continue despite unresolved issues. Environmental compliance was also discussed and HRRC was encouraged to move forward through the MEPA/NEPA process. Interest was also expressed in the public scoping process. Forrest requested the HRRC hold a meeting with the Army Corp of Engineers to discuss their desired process for involvement and ours. A meeting will ensue to discuss this. It is the hope of HRRC that the Corp will be another cooperating agency, and will be able to adopt our accomplishments to date. The Corp can bring funding and expertise to the dike development. The HRRC will submit an email with questions to the Corp. and await a written response prior to a face to face meeting. Forrest also stressed the need for more public education and site visits to unrestricted salt marshes and restored salt marshes.

IX

Friends Group Formation

We are looking to start a nonprofit organization to assist the HRRC with outreach to local communities and others to educate and inform about this project. There is a lot of information to disseminate to the public. Some future ideas: fundraising, newsletter, website, neighborhood meetings/ presentations. It is hopeful that the organization will oversee the day to day interactions with the community. Gary Joseph is currently in control of a list of individuals who would like to participate and is in the process of

scheduling a kick off meeting. It may be possible to select a project coordinator from this organization. Relationships between committees/organizations will need to be discussed further. Immediate goal will be a newsletter. Joseph will get a meeting date to John Riehl. Kick off meeting will be planned by Joseph, Portnoy, Riehl, and Don Palladino

Mission Statement: education, outreach, capacity building, and fundraising. A charter will be designed which specifies that this group reports to the HRRC. Some help may come from Maggie Geist (APCC), Carol Ridley (Friends of Pleasant Bay), Audubon Society, and Alyce Boyd.

Motion: John Moved To allow the Chair of the Committee to give presentations to neighborhood groups, Second by Charleen, unanimous vote to allow.

X

Next Meeting

Tuesday 15 July 2008 10:00 AM, COA