

Herring River Restoration Committee
15 July 2008
Council On Aging

Members Attending: Gary Joseph, Eric Derleth, Tim Smith, John Portnoy, Steve Block, Charleen Greenhalgh, Steve Spear

Others Attending: Mark Adams, Carrie Phillips, Hillary Greenberg

I. Update on Hydrodynamic Modeling, Kirk Bosma Woods Hole Group

Model development is topic of discussion. Model selected was EFDC, it is EPA supported and approves, 1,2, &3-d modeling, wetting and drying, hydrodynamics, water quality and sediment, dynamically coupled transport equations be modeled with this model. Bathymetry and topography were reviewed along with contemporary photogrammetry, 1999 creek cross sections, 2006 SLADE road survey, and 2007 Cross creek sections. All this data can help us produce a hypsometric curve, this projects land elevations throughout Herring River Floodplain. A grid was designed consisting of 80,000 rectangular cells with a resolution of 2-30 meters. Tide observations were viewed from September to October 2007. All data was broken down into tidal constituents: m2, n2, s2(lower Herring River), m2, msf, mm (Upper Herring River System). Atmospheric conditions get calculated into the model as well. Rainfall in the upper Herring River will be important to consider in the future. Culverts were reviewed as well for incorporation into the model.

Model Approach

Phase I-Model Calibration, Phase II-Model Validation, Phase III-Existing conditions simulations-normal tidal cycles-storm scenarios, Phase IV-Level 1 alternatives, Phase V-Level 2 alternatives. 1 yr, 10 yr, and 100 yr, storm surges will be modeled. The model is performing quite well, but is still being tweaked. Salinity currently does not go much above High Toss Road. Model Calibration is complete. A triple check may be performed because we do have complete data for another set of time. Level 1 alternatives will include a 30 meter and 40 meter opening at the dike, and a new structural crossing at High Toss Road. If we put the main control structure at high toss the dike will still have to be replaced thus this is not the best option. Woods Hole Group is ready for the Committee to supply alternatives for them to look at. The model is capable of addressing changes in culverts, it is possible to remove or enlarge culverts. A run with no structures would be very useful, but this will be discussed further with the Modeling Committee and WHG. WHG is ready to run alternatives, info from the modeling committee should be forwarded to WHG within one months time.

II. Discussion of tasks for EIS Phase 2 contract

Review of phase 2 statement of work by LBG. Costs were discussed per tasks. LBG will eliminate preliminary concern report (subtask C), eliminate the Junior staff from

the public scoping meetings, and eliminate 1 meeting. Also it is requested that LBG remove task 7, communication & coordination. Integrate task 7 into tasks 1-6.

WHG can work on the first run, the Herring River with no structures at all, the second and third run could include the 30 and 40 meter wide opening that would mimic a normal tidal cycle with existing structures upstream. 10-12 points on the marsh system where there is a critical ecological need must also be provided to WHG.

Cross sections and bathymetry of Pole Dike could still be added to the model, Mark Adams will obtain this information and forward it to WHG. Mark will also forward the low lying properties map to WHG.

III. Planning for first public scoping meeting, 14 August 2008

Meeting will be at the COA 14 August 2008. Each agency (NEPA, MEPA CCC) will make an opening statement. A technical overview, power point presentation of the project should be given next. Then a brief statement on how the open house will work, where comments could be spent. The capacity of the conference room is 125. There will be a sign in table with a supply of comment cards. Purpose and need, objectives, preliminary alternatives, impact topics will be stations, planning process and enabling legislation will have posters but no station. LBG will prepare a draft of topic tables and posters. Chapter 1 will be the basis for this task. LBG will also recommend the number of individuals to man each station. A Newsletter from Cape Hatteras was reviewed for ideas. Herring River newsletter draft will be submitted to Tim Smith on Wednesday. Greenberg will supply list of addresses to Phillips. Comments will be sent to PEPC (public environmental planning compliance). Greenberg will send interns over to CCNS to help in labeling and stamping. Meeting will be held on 6 August 2008 at 10:00 am at CCNS headquarters. Portnoy will contact CCC, Stacy Justice.

Impact topics will include:

Fish & Wildlife
Listed species
Essential fish habitat (EFH)

Vegetation
Invasive species

Water quality/ quantity
Soils

Socioeconomics

Cultural
Visitor Experience
Health & Safety

IV. Review of revised CYCC grading plans, LBG

Three alternatives were presented. Alternative 1 includes potential restoration of mill creek restoration of a spring tide to elevation 6. Elevates fairways to elevation 8, tees to 9, greens to 10. most amount of fill 89,000 cubic yards
2.8 million

Alternative 2: all parts are a minimum of elevation 8. 87,000 cubic yards of fill
2.8 million

Alternative 3: insulate the back areas from the Mill creek tributaries, keep surface water of restoration out. Just designed for groundwater elevation rise. Leading edge of course (hole 6, 7, 8) elevated to 8, rest of course is only at elevation 5, thus reducing the need for fill. 52,000 cubic yards of fill.
2.1 million

V. Update of MEPA / NEPA filings

MEPA: NPS regional office advised having a fixed end date (30 October 2008) for public comments, should our public scoping meetings occur prior to federal notice. There is no requirement for public notice in federal register prior to scoping meetings. NEPA: Special review procedure was officially noticed on 9 July 2008. ENF has been submitted and will be noticed in the next monitor. End date for commentary should coincide with MEPA. We must request the date of 30 October 2008 from the Herring River reviewer for the end of commentary. Craig Wood (LBG) supplied copies of ENF for Committee. LBG will supply copies to those who are interested.

Discussion ensued about Cape Cod Commission involvement.

VI. Discussion of 6/24/08 MA Historic Commission response letter

Bill Burke and Freddie Dimick from the NPS were present. MHC requested a paper copy of CRP (we sent a cd), enlarged USGS boundary map with existing and proposed conditions, existing and proposed project plans. Contact Jonathan Paton, MHC to get further guidance on his requests. MHC feels as though the project should be viewed in its entirety, not piece meal. Smith said Horsley Whitten supplied MHC with some information a while back looking to see their sensitivity to this project site. CZM then hired LBG to draft a report, this is the report that was sent to MHC recently. LBG worked closely with MHC two years ago to develop a reconnaissance survey. This has not been carried out yet however, we are aware that this is an archeologically rich area. Craig Wood, LBG will be the contact with MHC for the Restoration Committee. Burke recommends a face to face meeting at MHC in Boston. Burke will draft a response letter to MHC. LBG will enlarge the USGS map for MHC. Derleth would like to know how MHC feels about restoring tidal flow to the river (inundation)? There is a mixed opinion among Burke and his peers. Burke will address this in his letter to MHC.

VII. Update on Friends of Herring River Organization

Joseph is moving forward on this. He has a few individuals interested in drafting bylaws and following through on 501(c)(3) status. The mission statement for the organization was reviewed and discussed. Their tasks would be informing and educating, coordination of outreach activities, and fundraising. Comments on the draft shall be forwarded to Gary Joseph.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm