

Minutes
Herring River Restoration Committee (HRRC) Meeting
Cape Cod National Seashore Headquarters
Wellfleet, MA
Wednesday, October 10, 2018
9:30 am-12:00 pm

HRRC Members present: Hillary Lemos, Eric Derleth, Steve Spear, Tim Smith, Hunt Durey (by phone), Steve Block (by phone). Others present: Christine Odiaga, Martha Craig, Carole Ridley. Guests: Dan Hoort, Helen Miranda Wilson, David Bennett, Susan Baumgarten, Paula Cepace.

Administration/Coordination:

Minutes of September 13, 2018 were approved unanimously on a motion by Eric Derleth and second by Steve Spear.

The schedule of upcoming meetings was reviewed. The Herring River Restoration Committee's upcoming meetings are November 8 and December 19, 2018. The Herring River Stakeholders Group is scheduled to meet Thursday, October 11, 2018. The meeting will include a presentation on surface water modeling by Kirk Bosma, and a presentation on groundwater science by John Portnoy. The Herring River Executive Council is tentatively scheduled to meet Thursday, October 18, 2018, but further extension of that meeting is anticipated (discussed below)

David Bennett asked if he could address the HRRC. He is working with a group of citizens to learn more about the project. He has a range of questions, and was asked to submit his questions in writing, which he agreed to do.

Discussion & Updates:

-HRRC Subcommittees and Assignments

A list of subcommittees and assignments was circulated. Tim suggested separating out Sediment Monitoring and Management from the Monitoring and Adaptive Management subcommittee. There were no other suggested modifications.

-Budget Priorities for FY19

Martha reported that she received late information from subcommittees and required more time for analysis. She also asked subcommittees to think about prioritizing tasks and estimating timing of work on tasks by quarters.

The monitoring subcommittee will develop a proposal for continuing water quality monitoring with USGS.

-Project Timeline and Fundraising

Steve reported that a NRCS Technical Assistance grant application is likely to total around \$300,000. The state NRCS engineer will be visiting the site in the coming weeks.

Steve and Martha will continue to develop the proposal for further review and discussion. The concept of using the grant to support a monitoring technician was discussed.

-Permitting

The draft limited scope submission to the Cape Cod Commission was reviewed. There were no substantive comments and the consensus of the HRRC is that it is ready for submission to the towns once all minor comments are addressed and plans are ready.

A meeting with CYCC is scheduled for October 11, and they will be given an opportunity to review the application, consistent with the MOU.

Other permitting

The permitting subcommittee is discussing the status of contracts with ESS to prepare for the development of additional permit applications.

-HREC/Town Counsel Decisions

Dan Hoort reported that Wellfleet Select Board had hired attorney Gregor McGregor to represent the Town in matters related to the project. The Select Board also asked that Wellfleet and Truro's new counsel be briefed together. Truro interviewed two candidates on October 9th but tabled their decision. Since counsel is not named and briefed by October 18, it will be necessary to reschedule the HREC meeting.

-Adaptive Management Plan

Tim and Eric reported that a prototype website for expert elicitation on ecological factors would soon be completed. The committee is working with Woods Hole Group to develop a protocol for inviting scientists to participate in the elicitation.

-Update from National Park Service (NPS)

The meeting of regional directors will not take place in October as previously discussed. This is due to the timing of an unexpected visit by the Regional Director. Tim and Carole will be meeting with Brian and will discuss next steps.

-Status of Other Work Program Tasks:

Steve Spear reported that work on the CYCC golf course design will resume in the next few weeks.

Tim and Eric reported that a draft final report on the SLAMM output is being reviewed and may soon be available for the committee to review. There is time to refine this report since it is needed for the Notice of Intent filing.

Tim and Eric also reviewed the draft outline for the Habitat Management Plan they shared with Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. The project is exempt from having to obtain a conservation management permit, but needs to submit a habitat management plan to Natural Heritage. Since there is no template for this plan, the subcommittee was asked to submit a proposed outline. The initial feedback they have

received from Natural Heritage is that the outline is comprehensive and sufficient for requirements. The subcommittee will continue to work in collaboration with Natural Heritage in populating the outline. Natural Heritage commented that they believe there is sound baseline information on habitat conditions. Natural Heritage is concerned with broad population trends.

Communications/Coordination with Friends of Herring River (FHR)

Martha reported that the third video in the series is complete. One or more of the videos will be closed captioned so that they can be posted on the agency and town websites. Martha also noted that the Wellfleet State of the Harbor conference will include a presentation on herring by Derek Alcott. Tim and Martha are also exploring a possible presentation at the May 2019 Society of Wetland Scientist conference in Baltimore.

These minutes were approved by vote of the HRRC on November 8, 2018. Submitted by Carole Ridley, HRRC Coordinator

