

LIS HRI Meeting Minutes
11.29.2006 Bridgeport, CT

MOU update

First page of MOU was signed at the Policy Committee Meeting in September. Moriatory is the first signature on page 2 and he is waiting to sign. Page 3 of the MOU is on its way to NY's Sect. of State for signature. Page 4 is on its way to NY to be signed by Jack Mattice.

RAE conference

Attending- Robin Kriesberg (presenting and part of a panel), Bill Hubbard (presenting), Ron Rozsa and Heather Young.

Meeting Dates and Potential agenda items

3.22.07- New York (workplan, guidelines, acquisition)

7.25.07- Connecticut- Possibly do a site visit as part of the meeting-Stratford project site

11.14.07- New York

Habitat Restoration Guidance

We need to increase the quality of proposals and educate applicants. We may separate the documents by state for when applicable such as fish passage where the states have different regulations so as not to bog down applicants with information not relevant to projects in their state. More information regarding the permit and regulatory information would be useful, but other technical information such as having Endangered Species lists for Grasslands restorations (no permit is required) would be a useful tool to applicants. We could be the first group in the nation to publish guidelines regarding habitat restoration. Robin will ask other RAE groups if they have guidelines. Hopefully these guidelines will serve as a cross reference for other grant programs. Guidelines will be for design and physical restoration. This will be a focus of the March meeting. Habitat history is a very important piece of the puzzle and is currently in the guidelines twice.

CWRP

In CT they are bridging the planning gap, their staff provide limited technical staff. They have technical groups geared towards specific habitats. Rhode Island has pre-proposals, then USFWS can provide technical assistance for the next year's round.

DO fund

Maybe next year we should not limit proposals by group, we want to fund the best potential projects, not just be able to see the best two a group has to offer. We could be limiting applicants.

Annual Reports

We are still finishing 2001-2004's annual reports, Harry will take the lead in finishing those years and Heather will take the lead in finishing 2005-2006. Most of the information regarding the 2001-2004 annual reports has been gathered, we need a few pictures to polish the documents off.

Database

Separate subcommittee will discuss options, fields. Includes Harry, Heather, Ron, Lisa, Tom and Kevin O'Brien. We want to incorporate multiple factors- example would be to include more than one cause of degradation. Needs to be able to track funds- federal vs. state. Dan Rothenberg (LISS EPA office) will develop the database. Conference call by mid- January. We may want to include post construction monitoring fields.

HR Manual

RMC chapter- outline has comments, Harry is working on. Shellfish reefs- Heather hasn't had a chance to work on chapter since the previous meeting.

Global warming

Should HR workgroup make a statement regarding global warming tidal wetland restoration? It was discussed that we should encourage high marsh restoration and adaptive management. Our STAC has a subcommittee on climate change

MISC announcements

NY

- We have an intern doing a search for historic eelgrass meadows, the concentration is on WLIS but data concerning ELIS and other areas of NY metro area are being noted.
- Our Dam Safety Unit has agreed to do a Long Island area workshop concerning our Dam Safety regulations and fish passage.
- In February NY will be having a SAV workshop. Details will be forwarded to workgroup

CT

- CTDEP's Wildlife Division may create a Coastal Sandplain Habitat Restoration Team

In Attendance:

Heather Young- NYS DEC
Bob Kurtz- US ACE NY
Ron Rozsa- CT DEP
David Gumbart- CT TNC
Tim Visel- Sound School Aq. Center
Robin Kriesberg- Save the Sound
Karen Chytalo- NYS DEC

Harry Yamalis- CT DEP
Juliana Barrett- CT Sea Grant/Nemo
Tim Wenskus- NYC P&R NRG
Johanna Hunter- EPA New England
Bill Hubbard- US ACE New England
Mark Tedesco- EPA LISO
Tom Halavik- USFWS