

LISS HRI Meeting
Bridgeport, CT
November 18, 2009

Announced the 2010 meeting dates:

NY & CT Habitat Restoration updates

- 2009 Futures Fund HR projects- 2 projects in NY and 3 projects in CT.
- ARRA LIS HR projects- all in CT
 - 2 projects at 3 sites funded through NOAA
 - Bride Brook- over 80 acres and 5.1 miles restored (\$2.2M between this and West River)
 - West River- will restore 50 acres and 6 miles
 - Tingue Dam (\$2.5M)- will open 32 miles of river habitat
 - 1 project funded to USFWS to remove cottages at Long Beach West, will restore 18 acres of barrier beach habitat (\$909,000).
- Gave an overview of potential future projects

Workplan Tasks discussion-

Goal 1 Task 2- A molluscan reef chapter is on hold, until there is clearer guidance from each state on what would be allowable for restoration projects. We are proposing to contract out the writing of the RMC chapter.

Goal 1 Task 3- Funding was just received for the follow up workshop to the 2003 LIS Tidal Wetland Loss Workshop.

Goal 1 Task 5- HRI needs to increase outreach to terrestrial land managers to get more of these projects going, to focus on more than the 2 primary habitats than have been the focus of efforts previously.

Goal 1 Task 6- Plan an internal workshop for DEC regulators to work through issues relating to molluscan reef projects. Get the different offices to discuss whether these projects can proceed in NY waters.

Goal 2 Task 3- NY would like to continue to analyze TW trends, staff vacancies are an issue with moving forward.

Goal 3 Task 2- Research on various marsh restoration techniques- currently project is underway, group needs a status update.

Database- Is functioning , some projects still need to be updated for the database to be used to track numbers for reporting. Hard copies of directions to use the database are available and can be emailed to those interested. Additional users are needed to determine necessary updates. Heather set up a Picasa

account so that project pictures can be continually updated as a project matures, the picture albums are accessible from the database. There are two parts to the database, a public interface and a log on interface.

Grant Guidelines have been updated to include more reference to the difficulties in moving forward with molluscan reef projects in regards to qualifying as a habitat restoration site. Essentially it is a no go in CT at this time, due to disease concerns with non-harvested beds.

HRI website expansion- Ron circulated a potential outline with ideas. The habitat portion of website hasn't been updated frequently in regards to recent content since the original content was created. Due to a re-design of the LISS website, it was decided to wait to move forward with habitat content updates until the LISS website was completed. Estimated to be completed in February 2010.

Map-Brochure update- Heather brought a mockup of the latest map data, with the potential projects removed. The current version of the map includes only the completed and in-progress projects. Current thinking is that a new paper map may not be worth the financial investment and not the best environmental idea. However a pdf version of the map could easily be updated frequently to make it available on the website as a download.