

Long Island Sound Study
Habitat Restoration Initiative Work Group
Meeting on July 25, 2007
Bridgeport, CT

MINUTES

- **HR database and website:** We have to develop a scope of work for the database; a summary was emailed with the agenda for this meeting. The cost of using Yankee Planning Group would be \$27,000 (+15% for possible overruns). Based on the original RFP for the database, costs were significantly higher, though the online mapping was included.
 - Need to have web-delivered central source of information that can be continually updated. The goal is that the information can be extracted for annual reports (e.g. GPRA); photos and other documents can be added. There will be different levels of functionality depending on user; i.e. the coordinators will be able to add data, the public will not have that ability.
 - May want to have size limits on photos to be uploaded.
 - There will be an internal link for the workgroup to test the site before it goes live.
 - It will take NEIWPC about a week to develop a contract once the scope of work has been approved. Becky will need a clear statement from the workgroup regarding what we want.
- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):** It was decided that the remaining MOU signatures will be obtained by sending individual pages out to signees rather than the pages with grouped signatures to make the process go faster
- **Intern projects:** Our work plan should present a list of potential projects that interns could take on, so that when the opportunity arises there are projects ready to move.
 - This summer, the EPA LIS office and CT TNC have interns researching the historical extent of molluscan beds in the Sound.
- **2007-2009 Work plan-** Goal is to have it completed by 7/31/07.
 - Universe of Habitat- We need to work on our universe of possible restoration projects, such as possible number of river miles that can be opened or restorable wetlands. This will help with setting appropriate future goals. Add this to the work plan. Try to develop a list of “will do” and “would like to do” projects.
 - Add to the work plan - Plan follow up to 2003’s tidal wetland loss workshop
 - LIS submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) monitoring protocol - use recommendations created during New York’s SAV experts panel as a starting place. Heather will talk to Chris. Pickerell at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County Marine Program about the monitoring done at his restoration sites.
- **Habitat Restoration Grant Guidance** - Make a priority to finish by mid September, before the next round of LIS Futures Fund grants, with permit information and habitat-specific guidance for fish passage or tidal wetlands. Include two sample habitat restoration plans in the guidance.

- **Annual Reports update** - The 2001–2004 Annual Reports have been posted on the LISS website. A mass message will be sent out when the 2005 and 2006 have also been posted, hopefully by early fall.
 - The coordinators should update the old restoration map and have the update version available online. There are many projects that aren't represented on the currently available map.
- **November 14th meeting** - Will likely be held in Mamaroneck, at the town. A restoration site was recently finished at a public park there. The 2008 meeting dates will be chosen at this time.
- **GPRA** - Will need to be completed soon. We need to find a good way to track acquisitions, as they now count towards our acreage. Neither CT nor NY has a centralized database to track this. If possible, we should check with land trusts, counties, and towns.

Miscellaneous Announcements

- Army Corps of Engineers restoration grant applications are due 8/20/07; it is a grant to restore many coastal habitat types not just wetlands. The grant is for them to do the on-the-ground work.
- There is a *Phragmites* workshop being held at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, October 15 and 16th.
- The Coast Guard Academy will be holding a workshop on Ocean and Climate Change, expect an announcement.
- Cross Sound Cable money is available.
- There is currently a push to improve water quality conditions in Hempstead Harbor in order to open the waters to shellfishing. Seeding is expected to occur in the Fall.

A field visit to Great Meadows was held at the end of the meeting, led by Harry Yamalis.

Heather Young
 Harry Yamalis
 Ron Rozsa
 Mark Tedesco
 Louise Harrison
 Lisa Cavallaro (by phone)
 Tim Wenskus
 Nancy Brighton
 Robin Kreisburg
 Tessa Getchis
 Adam Welchel