

LISS HRI Meeting March 26, 2008  
Bridgeport CT

**HR Database-** Yankee Planning Group was hired to create our online database, it is expected that a demo will be ready in approximately 6 weeks. The database will be useful in our annual GPRA reporting and provide a way for the public to access information about projects without going through the annual reports.

- Trying to keep with lists as much as possible to avoid typos.
- Need to determine if we are going to be able to upload images/reports
- Maybe include federally listed species at project site (keep field hidden from public)

**Website-** Began discussions on updating the website and making it more functional. Maybe we could move away from the actual chapter format and have pages on the website dedicated to each particular habitat type and provide guidance in that format. When HRI really got going and began developing the chapters, the internet wasn't where it is today. Could be quicker way to disseminate information, especially considering how few chapters we've completed in 12 years.

- Pros- It would be easier to update as best practices change and information can be provided in a more timely manner. The 'chapters' would be less static.
- Cons- We have always done the chapters and this is a departure from what we've done in the past- may have to check with Mark.

We could also have webpages dedicated to some of our larger projects, to supplement the database.

**Chapters-** Rich Orson has offered to write the RMC chapter in partnership with members of our workgroup= C. Orvis, S. Gephart, T. Halavick. Needs to know by end of school year. We should decide on direction of website by then.

**Molluscan Bed Restoration issues-** In CT there is no good point person at DEP to provide guidance, though there are other entities willing to do so a person at DEP is needed. The actual practice of oyster restoration seems to be a sticking point, one main issue is that it would be a conversion of the habitat that is currently there, even if it can be proven that beds existed historically. What is allowed by each state may not necessarily be considered current best practices, but we should be providing technical guidance that the states won't ultimately permit. Ultimately we need to be able to provide good information beyond what activities aren't allowed and what can be considered restoration with HRI's current working definition.

**LIS Oyster Restoration-** \$25 M have been authorized under the Water Resources Development Act for oyster bed restoration in the Sound.

CT Seagrant Shellfish Database- picked up where last summer's interns left off. Old shellfish maps are being scanned and will be available on the LISRC website. A grant from the Dept. of Agriculture to train shellfisher-people in GIS technology.

CT TNC is looking into underwater ownership throughout CT waters.

**Ecological Restoration-** We were approached by the journal editors to submit a note for their September issue. Topics brought up included:

- LISS funds- how it's coordinated
- Bi-state/urban/rural complications and how that affects funding\
- Climate change implications
- Guidelines for HRI funding.

**Stewardship workgroup-** Reconvening, they have \$ for acquisitions. Group is currently working towards future direction. Enhancement grant- look at landscape and the needs to determine funding priorities.

In attendance:

Heather Young  
Harry Yamalis  
Juliana Barrett  
Sarah Deonarine  
Larissa Graham  
Tessa Getchis  
Rachel Novick  
Chris Cryder  
Victoria Ruzicka  
Janine Harris  
Adam Whelchel  
Johanna Hunter  
Tom Halavik  
Ron Rozsa  
Louise Harrison  
Bill Hubbard  
Mark Johnson  
Tim Visel  
David Carey