

Steering Committee Meeting: Notes

October 15, 2007 ~ Kittery Town Hall 4 – 6 PM

Attendees

- Dan Blanchette, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen, Town of Eliot
 - Dick Loehr, Steering Committee, Spruce Creek Association
 - Forrest Bell, FB Environmental/YCS&WCD
 - John “Jack” Murphy, Chair, Eliot Board of Selectmen, Town of Eliot
 - Jonathan Carter, Town Manager, Town of Kittery
 - Paula Ledgett, Steering Committee, Spruce Creek Association
 - Phyllis Ford, Steering Committee, Spruce Creek Association
 - Sandra Mowery, Planner, Town of Kittery
 - Steve Hall, Kittery Conservation Commission
 - Susan Emery, resident, SCA member, and former “Spruce Creek Steering Committee” member
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Recap

- Held Community Forum, November 2006
 - Steering Committee meeting, June 4, 2007
 - Steering Committee meeting, July 24, 2007
 - Kittery Town Council Awards Further Funding to Plan Modeling Work, August 28, 2007
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Comments on Draft 1 of Management Plan

Dick Loehr commented that the priority issues identified in the 319 Survey work don't seem to be linked to the plan in anyway. Forrest will work with Jon Carter to ensure that coordination is included in the plan. The Habitat Restoration Inventory should also be included where/as appropriate.

Forrest found a few things were missing from this draft. First of all, the modeling (which we knew would not yet be included) still requires another two to three weeks of work. It will be included in the next draft. A next step will be to match the modeling to the land use map (map #1 in the document).

For the modeling, they'll be using a hybrid of three models: the Maine DEP TMDL model, the BASINS model, and a bacterial model developed by Virginia Tech.

As a group we will need to let Forrest know of any livestock in the watershed (horses, chickens, cows, etc.). This will help to fill out more information on the pet and wildlife waste impacts of the model and their bacterial input. This way, the plan can at least give non-human bacterial influences their credit.

Forrest will also be adding a map to section 6.2 (Critical areas, page 27). Jon Carter suggested the Town's newly developed GIS system might have some of that information. Also, a man named Hank Tyler used to run the Maine “critical areas” program (which has been discontinued). This information could possibly be of use.

Additionally, the data included on page 12, will also be included in the maps where appropriate.

Forrest is wondering if we'd like to include more information in the regulations portion of the document. It was decided to include the titles and references for relevant regulations, as well as brief one or two sentence summaries to facilitate easy understanding of what they are and where the full text can be found.

A page or two on financial resources and funding will be included to flesh out options for this items not covered in the up-coming 319 grant.

Comments on Implementation of Plan

Steve Hall suggested we also include resources on native plant suppliers (local and regional nurseries). Forrest mentioned Pierson's in Dayton ME (York County) as a wholesaler he's worked with in the past. These are resources that will have to be identified during the 319 work so this can be completed in that same timeframe. We can also look to ask local nurseries to participate in the program by carrying certain plants and by offering discounts to homeowners involved in our projects. We can provide some PR for these project partners in return.

Dick Loehr, a resident of Shepards Cove, says they are going to have replant some areas, install signage to mark the buffer's edge, and do some homeowner education (pursuant to DEP review of infractions of their stormwater permit). They're going to need sources and landscapers to do that restoration work and would like to look to this group to help where possible.

He is also concerned that organization of the whole group is a critical success factor to the implementation of this plan.

Jon Carter sees there are funds in the 319 project to help educate homeowners. Though he is also concerned about the impacts the new state-mandated Shoreland Zoning Regulations are going to have on homeowners. He fears these changes will upset folks.

Paula remarked that collectively we all make sacrifices on our own property to protect this resource. In her travels abroad, places that had a presence of both education and enforcement in terms of environmental rules and regulations were far healthier (and more beautiful) than "protected" places that lacked this presence. Both towns are going to need to ensure not only that there are good regulations in place, but that there is significant effort around the education on and the enforcement of those regulations.

Proposed Committees

Forrest suggested we consider establishing committees to implement the 319 work and the of other facets of the management plan. We could base these on the main groupings of action items within the document (on pg 35), for instance.

In the Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition group Forrest works with, they have the following committees: Open Space, Cumulative Impacts, and Fisheries. They have bylaws and have a separate fiscal agent (the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership).

Forrest proposed the following committees:

1. Buffers, Invasives and Conservation Lands
2. Bacteria Reduction, Stormwater and Impervious Surfaces
3. Water Quality Assessment and Monitoring
4. Fundraising and Grant-Writing (which can include key people from other committees)

Jon Carter suggested that an over-arching committee be established by the Town of Kittery to serve as an advisory committee to the Kittery Town Council (and Eliot's Board). It is a given that we'll need some 'body' to drive this plan and the 319 project. Perhaps we can also look to the York Rivers Association for how they've structured their committees – Phyllis to follow-up on that.

In general, it has been discussed that this steering committee that has assembled to create this management plan could somehow become the steering committee for the 319 project (and the other projects outlined in the management plan). Sue Emery is concerned that this group and its goals and objectives be formalized. We'll also consider the Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition bylaws.

The group moving forward should also include local business (which it has thus far, as well). We might want to consider including someone from local nursery(ies) on the committee. Having someone represent academia (college professors) would also be advisable.

The larger group (overarching committee) will also need to be named. Suggestions were made to make it the Spruce Creek Steering Committee, the Spruce Creek Watershed Committee, or the Spruce Creek Watershed Coalition. Regardless, this top-level group needs to have an overall control (the "storyboarding" level of writing communications, suggested Dick Loehr) so that the individual projects carried out by the subcommittees are coordinated with the overall plan and efforts are not duplicated between the committees.

Jon Carter proposes that the Kittery Town Council be asked to set in motion this plan as a living document. This will require a mechanism to control it as it moves forward. We will have to set up an advisory committee on implementation of the plan to achieve the goals. This group could then be charged with reporting to the Councilors and Selectmen on a quarterly or annual basis.

This will obviously require support from the Kittery Town Council and the Eliot Board of Selectmen. The group will also need to interact officially with the Planning Boards and Conservation Commissions of the two towns.

We may need to add a "Governance" piece to the management plan (which can come near the implementation and grant sources portion). This will identify which boards are to be represented or involved in the committee(s) and help to avoid territorial issues.

Jon Carter would like to present some draft of this organization and governance to the Town Council.

Forrest would also like to request help in reviewing the land cover map. Jon Carter suggested the Kittery GIS system might have some information. There might also be some additional information from the State's layers. The date of the satellite images/data used should be noted on the maps (Forrest believes it is from 2004). Eliot is in the process of trying to get better or more recent aerial photography that might be of use (if they get it).

Next Steps

- Forrest will continue work on the modeling portion of the document.
- SCA will send an email to members asking about what livestock is in the watershed.
- SCA will also send out the land-use map to members (with better explanation of the various zones) for help in reviewing the delineations.
- Phyllis will contact Carol Donnelly of the York Rivers Association for advice on how their "committees" are structured for the implementation phase(s) of their projects.
- Phyllis will also contact NEA to see if there is a summary map of the Habitat Restoration Opportunities survey completed in 2005.
- Forrest to provide a copy of the PRWC bylaws for consideration by the group in creating committees and their responsibilities.
- **All feedback on the other content in the document are due to Phyllis by Wednesday, October 31, 2007.** She will compile the feedback and forward it to Forrest within a couple of days.
- A more final draft will be presented for review in November (and should be reviewed by a larger audience at that point). A final feedback session will be held one month later.
- The next meeting will be to prepare for kick-off of the 319 project.
- Towards the end of December or in January the final plan will be presented to the Towns of Kittery and Eliot. A joint meeting of the Kittery Town Council and Eliot Board of Selectmen might be possible. At that time any "action items" for the Towns should be presented. Specifically, the Town of Eliot should be told what portion of the "issues" lie in Eliot and what needs to be done to remedy them (who, where, when, how much money, etc.) where possible.