

Mystic River Watershed Steering Committee Meeting
Draft Flip Chart Notes
May 20, 2009

Ground Rules:

- Everyone is encouraged to speak
- Please raise your hand to speak
- All ideas should be treated with respect
- One person should speak at a time
- Try not to use acronyms or abbreviations
- Ideas should be written as the speaker intends
- Audience member should state their name and affiliation before they speak

Agreement Points:

- The Steering Committee will use the consensus model when dealing with decisions on particular issues.

2009 Updated Priorities for Action:

General Strategic Approach

- Establish and select priorities for next three years to improve water quality in the Mystic River, lakes, and streams in the watershed
- Create metrics/measurement to track progress and determine success
- Communicate established priorities in a high visibility way, by EPA and State. Increase media attention on the Mystic.
- ID funding for scientific investigation
- Visioning session to create a strategic plan for ten year goals for a healthy urban watershed.
- What are the initial steps to improve water quality throughout the watershed? Develop a plan.

Mystic River Watershed Planning

- Create a comprehensive plan for the Mystic River Watershed (e.g. land use, development, flooding, others)
- Goals that are targeted to include wildlife. Habitat restoration and protection.
- Create an environmental atlas for the Mystic River Watershed (e.g. resources, other issues historical and present)
- Improve coordination of planning and development activities in the Mystic River watershed and look at cumulative impact of development decisions
- Create a standardized bylaw/models for use in the Mystic River watershed
- Flood Plain Management Plan. (Better and more coordinated planning.)

Water Quality & Sediment Actions/ Enforcement/ Cleanup

- Establish a Mystic River cleanup boat (like the Charles River cleanup boat)
- Establish TMDLs for nutrients and other pollutants of concern (e.g. phosphorus)

- Increase level of environmental compliance in Mystic River Watershed with measurable results
- Increase the level of EPA and state enforcement activity in the Mystic River watershed
- Reduce frequency of SSO, CSO events
- Monitor remedial efforts and promote redevelopment of hazardous waste sites.
- Compile and evaluate existing sediment data, and fill in gaps.
- Include wildlife criteria in water quality goals
- Landscaping ordinances – nutrient free zones

Access

- Public pathways across the watershed (waterways and bike trails)
- Connect pathways between the river and its tributaries
- Prioritize access for EJ communities
- Increase safe, public access to the Mystic River
- Waterfront access and redevelopment in DPAs
- Distinguish and focus on both efforts directed at navigable bike path access and leisure paths along the river.

Outreach –Outreach can be viewed as a tool towards achieving the goals outlined above.

- Increase public awareness, understanding and access to information about the Mystic River Watershed
- Create newsletter capturing work of the Steering Committee in the Mystic River Watershed
- Create opportunities to listen to community needs and concerns (e.g. listening session)
- Organize and coordinate cleanup events along the Mystic River
- Address pollution from multiple sources and change behavior and practice on key issues (e.g. lawn care, pesticides, residential landscaping techniques, etc.)
- Create a strategy to engage and involve youth on a range of environment and public health issues (e.g. lawn care, pesticides, etc.)
- Identify and secure resources including funding for needed activities/projects in the Mystic River watershed
- Conduct briefings for funders to attract attention and larger resources for projects
- Report Card event should also include information on positive accomplishments in addition to the grade
- Create a clearinghouse/central location for past and present research and projects throughout the Mystic River Watershed.
- Improve communication/coordination between agencies and departments that normally do not work collaboratively

Business Discussion:

- As we create a business sub-committee, we should be somewhat selective in that we should work with businesses that are regulated, and impacted by decisions we make or businesses right on the water and who's activities have direct impact on water quality.
- Business sub-committee is worthwhile. If businesses are not included early, there may be concerns later.

- The businesses themselves should select their own representation at the table.
- Ideas for business entities:
 - Cummings Organization (Woburn)
 - Raytheon (Woburn)
 - Nokia (Woburn/Burlington)
 - Distrigas
 - Smithson Northeast
 - Developer near Tufts Boathouse
- This idea should be brought to a small group to assemble the names and send out invitations to July's meeting. All Steering Committee members should submit names of potential business entities.
- Currently, the Steering Committee is set up to accommodate on seat for a business representative.
- Messaging needs to be well developed so that it is clear that participating entities are not getting a free ride.
- Volunteers for Business small group: Lise Marx, Roseann Bongiovanni, EK Khalsa, Ivey St. John, Ed Quinn

Exxon Mobil Discussion:

- Final settlement is for \$1M to Massachusetts Environmental Trust (MET) and remainder \$4.5M North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), a national program funneled thru U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS). The first call for applications is July 31st. Mitch Hartley of FWS has offered to do a workshop to assist groups with grant writing and identification of match before the July deadline. There will probably be another workshop in the fall in preparation for the next application deadline in February.
- MET has been awarded \$1M and the language for this sun of funding is pretty broad. The funds can be used for water quality work or wetlands restoration. Right now, MET is concentrating on two areas.
 - Classic water quality work, TMDLs and some other things.
 - Two – mobilizing the funding to get the other \$4.5M. NAWCA requires a 1:1 match (looking back 2 years) regarding funds for application but it doesn't have to be cash. MET has already identified over \$1M in match if we can find a project to apply for. Some of the match will expire on Dec 31, 2009, and the next application isn't until 2010, so we can only look for match in 2008.
- There is a strong preference to use the NAWCA funds in the Mystic River Watershed. In a practical sense, a Mystic proposal has to be in every round until the \$ is gone.
- Right now, there is \$940,000 of match from calendar '07. There is about \$500,000 from '08 and '09 available in match. MET is still looking for potential match.
- It is in everyone's best interest to avoid is competing against each other. If MET receives three separate requests, we plan talk it out and figure out which is the farthest along for this application deadline. Hopefully all of this can be done by consensus. The best approach is to come in with one application per deadline to have a really good chance at winning.

Follow up Actions:

- The Steering Committee will have briefings and/or distribute materials on state and federal water quality standards and regulations (CWA, TMDLs, etc.)
- EPA will gather and distribute existing Mystic River Watershed plans from DCR, MyRWA, MAPC, and Chelsea Creek and look at how they relate to the list above.
- Members will form priorities based on the lists above prior to the next Steering Committee meeting through e-mail. EPA will set it up electronically and compile results before the next meeting.
- Steering Committee members should submit their ideas for business entities for invitation to the July 15 meeting.
- NAWCA workshop will be held June 9, 9:30 am at Chelsea City Hall
- The next Meeting will be on July 15, 2009. Location TBD

<p>Mystic River Watershed Steering Committee Sign-in Sheet May 20, 2009</p>

Name	Organization	E-mail address
Ivey St. John	Charlestown Waterfront Coalition (CWC)	gran.nie@comcast.net
Andrew DeSantis	Chelsea Department of Public Works (DPW)/Revere ConCom	adesantis@chelseama.gov
Mel Kleckner	Town manager, Town of Winchester	mkleckner@winchester.us
Bob Conway	Town Engineer, Town of Winchester	
Eugene Bensen	Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE)	gene@ace-ej.org
Brenda Cotto-Escalera	Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH)	brenda@noahcdc.org
Edward Quinn	Woburn Residents Environmental Network (WREN)	bosstang@rcn.com
Ekongkar Singh Khalsa	Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA)	ek@mysticriver.org
Jan Dolan	Friends of Upper Mystic Lake	dolanjanicea@hotmail.com
Stephen Perkins	US EPA New England	perkins.stephen@epa.gov
Christine Ellersick	Roots and Shoots	cellersick@janegoodall.org
Nancy Free	Friends of the Middlesex Fells Reservation	nefree@verizon.net

Lise Marx	Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA)	lise.marx@mwra.state.ma.us
Roseann Bongiovanni	Chelsea Greenspace & Recreation Committee	roseannb@chelseacollab.org
Joan Blaustein	Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)	jblaustein@mapc.org
Karen Pelto	Massachusetts Office of Energy and the Environment (MA EEA)	karen.pelto@state.ma.us
Michael Celona	Massachusetts Department of Public Health	Mike.celona@state.ma.us
Robert Bennett	MassHighway	Robert.bennett@state.ma.us
Cynthia Liebman	Conservation Law Foundation	cliebman@clf.org
David Mendelsohn	FEMA	david.mendelsohn@dhs.gov
Bill Hinkley	Massachusetts Environmental Trust (MET)	william.hinkley@state.ma.us
Tom Budde	EXXON Mobile Pipeline Co.	j.thomas.budde@exxonmobil.com
Chris Hatfield	US ACE	Christopher.l.hatfield@usace.army.mil
Melinda Alvarado-Vega	Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH)	mvega@noahcdc.org
Lynne Hamjian	US EPA New England	hamjian.lynne@epa.gov
Caitlyn Hunt	US EPA New England	hunt.caitlyn@epa.gov
Jeanethe Falvey	US EPA New England	Falvey.jeanethe@epa.gov
Amy Braz	US EPA New England	braz.amy@epa.gov
Mike Castagna	US EPA New England	castagna.michael@epa.gov