

Mystic River Watershed Steering Committee Report  
September 25, 2013 at Preotle, Lane & Associates, Ltd

**Agreement Points:**

- December meeting will focus memberships and priority actions for 2014.

**Next Meeting Date**

- Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, December 12 at EPA's Boston office  
\*\*Please note: there may be a new side entrance available on Milk Street for EPA and non-court visitors. Please use that entrance. We advise all visitors to continue to leave extra bags and electronics at home to expedite the security process.

**Follow-Up Actions:**

- Meeting minutes from June Steering Committee meeting will be finalized at the December meeting.

**Carry Over follow-up items from June meeting**

- WQ Subcommittee agreed that Patrick will re-share sediment mapping and the group will continue the dialogue to identify where to go with the technical aspects of the sediment question. The WQ Subcommittee needs direction on the Steering Committee can and wants to do there.
- Municipal subcommittee can hold a discussion about how they might spend CDBG funds, what the criteria are, and what their plans are. Ernie (HUD) will join a special call/meeting on this topic.
- A municipal meeting in the fall/winter is timely for discussing the next round of HUD Block grants.

**Announcements**

- MAPC - I have received funding from two sources to continue work on the Walking Routes to the Mystic River. My goal is to work with municipalities (Everett, Somerville and Medford) to sign and map three additional routes and to hold a regional meeting concerning the initiative. I will also be updating the MAPC web page devoted to this project.
- ***Tri-City Community Action Program, Inc.*** is celebrating 35 years of "*Improving lives. Creating Opportunities*" for residents of Metro North Boston. Please join us for the 2013 Oktoberfest Gala, Thursday, October 17, 2013, 5:30-8:00P, Irish American Club, 177 West Street, Malden, MA. We are featuring micro-brewery beer-tasting, authentic German-style food, raffle and auction, with music by Bob Lague. Tickets are \$30, tables of 10 \$280. For tickets or more info, contact Betty or Loretta at 781.322.4125.
- An announcement of MyRWA is of our 2013 Annual Meeting, Thursday, Oct. 24th from 6 - 9PM, Winchester Town Hall, Maurer Auditorium, 71 Mount Vernon Street, Winchester, MA. For more information see: <http://mysticriver.org/annual-meeting/>

**Report**

The meeting opened at 9:30 AM with a few remarks by EK, who then introduced Chris Gordon, environmental consultant for Wynn Casinos.

The full Wynn and Suffolk presentations are available on the MyRWA website. Or try <http://mysticriver.org/myrwa-blog/2013/9/26/casino-meeting-draws-a-crowd.html>

Wynn's Chris Gordon described in some detail the site, buildings, parking accommodations and the environmental improvements anticipated and the commitment to explore building and creating a marsh and wetlands off the south edge of the Monsanto site. Wynn will also build an extension of the pedestrian and bike pathway from Everett's Gateway Park, under the commuter rail line, around the Wynn site and into Boston via a water's edge pathway behind the Boston DPW Transfer Station and the MWRA's Pump Station and wind turbine. In addition, he described and pictured a new type of boat for ferry service to and from key sites in Boston Harbor, including Logan.

Additional Wynn team members described other aspects of the development, including Chapter 91 characteristics and waste/water plans. There was time for a lively Q & A period.

Wynn's Draft Environmental Impact Report will be available 10/15/13.

EK subsequently introduced Chip Tuttle of Suffolk Downs/Caesars Entertainment. Chip described the principle environmental improvements already carried out and those to come. Much of the environmental work will be in significantly expanded open space and landscaping, designed by Sasaki Dawson Demay. Plantings will lead to clarifying grey water, and Suffolk committed to renewing former marshes and habitat in the area.

The Suffolk Downs/Caesars DEIR was released on 9/3/13, and comments are due by 10/11/13. The DEIR is available in disc form and can be gotten by calling Janice Tatarka at Dewey Square Associates, 671-367-9929. Commitments are made in the DEIR for the largest solar installation in the nation, and co-generation for the developments energy needs is planned.

Chip revealed that for the last two years, Suffolk Downs has lost \$10 million dollars annually, and that if Suffolk is not awarded the eastern Massachusetts Gaming Commission nod, then Suffolk Downs will be redeveloped as a mixed-use development, and the race track, which is 36 acres of open space, will be closed.

Chip continued with a description of public access points to Suffolk including two T Stations, water transportation service and the promised fly-over on Rt. 1A.

After some pointed and straightforward question and answers, the presentation portion of the meeting concluded and the Steering Committee withdrew to John Peotle's conference room for the remainder of our meeting.

Steering Committee members discussed the proposals, related clean-up of the Monsanto site, as well as the resulting restoration to each site from potential future development.

There was discussion about the need for clear and substantial public education/signage related to fish and shellfish advisories should the Wynn development gain the license.

The meeting adjourned about 12:30PM.

Respectfully submitted, Ivey St John