Mystic River Watershed Steering Committee
Draft Meeting Notes
Wednesday, November 17, 2010, 9:30am
Tuft's University Boathouse
300 Rivers Edge Drive, Medford, MA

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 Committee will continue to form business and municipality subcommittees. **Note: This meeting did not meet the quorum requirements and therefore the committee was unable to formally act on these activities.**

Introductions/Past Meeting Notes

- John Preotle welcomes everyone, and briefly speaks about River's Edge and Tuft's Boathouse
- EPA introduces Anamarija Frankic from UMASS Boston.
  - EPA and UMASS working together to restore urban waters and working on the Mystic.
  - Currently working on an MOU.
  - First success is hiring of Karen Simpson as a Co-Op.
  - We are looking forward to forging a strong relationship with UMASS and other universities.
  - Working on a forum where we can bring other universities into the effort.
- Anamarija expressed her interest and enthusiasm of the Mystic River project. She is a biologist in the Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences department at UMASS and very interested in dealing with restoring Boston Harbor watersheds - Mystic Charles and Neponset. The goal is to engage students in doing applied science by assisting with some of the projects that the Steering Committee feels is necessary for restoring the Mystic.
- Karen Pelto – International Society of Env Toxicologists and Chemists (SETAC) will be in Boston next November (2011). EOEA is tasked with creating a science forum with students and offering experts for collaborative effort.
- No comments on the past meeting notes. Cannot be approved, we don't have a quorum.
- Ivey will provide an additional agenda item – business subcommittee update

Report Out From Water Quality Subgroup

Updates to the matrix

- Tried to group threats to water. Group has made a lot of progress identifying the issues and prioritizing for consensus.
- Threats to water quality and then specified the type of strategy necessary to reduce that threat.
- Who is the responsible party for an action.
- Looking at the source identification and then looking at a range of types of strategies – eg. Might be investigative, it might be enforcement, it might be advocacy, or it could be education or control. Many strategies fall into more than one category.
- Identified time frames for implementation and then whether a member organization would take the action or the steering committee.

Objectives and Next steps

- Need a discussion about what role the Steering Committee might take.
- First item is about prioritization and how we would prioritize strategies across the matrix. This is there as a placeholder.
- The group started out looking at bacteria issues – in terms of wet weather and dry weather. Began with SSOs, for example, there might be information gathering on location, volume, and severity of overflow situations.
- Moved from CSOs to SSOs
- Differentiating between short/medium/long time frames:
    - an example of a short term measure that would be important to do right away
        - examining the 303(d) list for omissions.
    - The time frames are just an estimate, more qualitative.
        - We are trying to create a tool that we can use to spell out the whole landscape. The point is to make it easier for the group to make it thru a prioritization process. We still have to figure out where to check things off and get everything filled in.
- The working group should do more before the entire Steering Committee goes over it.
- Many of the strategies are many rolled into one. Once we have a list, the time frames will make sense in reference to eachother.
- To move forward, stormwater was an area that looked at wet weather and then dry weather, nutrients, cyanobacteria, metals/legacy pollutants, physical.
- One thing we are still working on, is that there are a number of strategies and advocacy, and at the end we have a toolbox and we envision that these will be folded into strategies up above. Whether we're talking about stormwater workshops with communities or info transfer that would help them comply with stormwater requreiments, or information exchange between municipalities. Would see these being moved up and integrated into the above strategies.

- There are a number of things that MAPC is currently working on, and Joan would like to see how these strategies can be integrated.
- The group has been struggling with defining who is responsible. The responsible party column should be the primary responsible party/polluter. And the other column which is labeled "Is focus/task…?" designates whether an individual group can take on the task, or if its something that the entire Steering Committee should work on together.
- EK poses a question of whether or not making this matrix has been useful for this group to convene and for the organizations to have these discussions about water quality. Will this lead to a better understanding of WQ problems? As you understand who will execute the work, has a stronger understanding of the steering committee been accomplished? Have there been discussions as to how best to deploy this aggregation of agencies and organizations?
    - It's been very helpful to have the group break things into manageable chunks.
    - There is more work to be done.
    - Issues of further engagement of groups will fall out as we move forward.
    - There will be more specific discussions with whatever groups are identified to put in next level of details. What is the schedule and what details are involved. This takes us a step closer.
- The WQ subgroup has been really useful. We are creating a tool to help think about what the different strategies are.
    - Who will be doing what, and what role will the steering committee play? This is the tool to be able to do that.
    - As we fill in the last column, we'll have the tools to answer those questions.
    - Will help identify and make clear where the gaps are and open up opportunities for the Steering Committee.
- EK asks: Is one objective to identify what are the most powerful activities?
    - Yes – hopefully this be done with open space and the whole steering committee. Other uses and targets for certain areas.
- This is a planning exercise, but there are enough people around the table to complete an exercise.
- Ties together the open space and municipal sub-committees. Brings you back to "we're all in this together." There are a lot of ways for people see how to tie back their efforts on water quality.
- Perhaps it's worth doing some of the check offs when working with Cambridge because a lot of these may or may not be implemented, perhaps some could come into play during ongoing work.
- The Alewife Reservation Area has had an extensive habitat assessment (Ellen Mass has the details)
- Ivey raises a concern about the salt pile in Chelsea and Everett. A storm surge forum makes it very clear that it will be a problem, should be incorporated into the matrix.

- Hopefully at next meeting the committee will be able to look at the list of strategies and decide which activities to jump onto and work together.
- Peter Crowley (BC) asks what the vision is for engaging the private sector
    - Ivey begins business subcommittee report

Business Subcommittee Report Out (Ivey)

- Ivey called everyone on the committee that showed up at the 9/22 meeting. Is still in the process of making calls.
- Proposal to businesses
    - Make legislative and congressional staff people aware of what the EPA is doing in relation to the MS4 permits
    - Get these people involved in environmental issues
    - Get business and municipal committees together and make an MS-4 presentation
    - Have a discussion about how to bring businesses and municipalities into compliance with regulations
    - We all talked about enforcement when we met with Lisa Jackson and so we have this in the MS4 permit regulations.
- Ivey will continue to go through the list of businesses to see if everyone thinks it's appropriate.
- Determine whether or not the EPA and the steering committee are comfortable with it. It's important for members of the Steering Committee to be present.
- The Steering Committee is good at bringing people together to negotiate, discuss problems and solutions.
- Exxon Mobile suggests communicating to businesses thru the Chambers of Commerce. We attend meetings in Everett, so if they have the same thing in Chelsea and Charlestown.
- In the past, we have done outreach to the Chelsea and Everett Chamber of Commerce. Would do it again if Exxon brings it up and someone sends and email or phone call and would bring Andy, Tony and Rich with Ivey to present on the permit regulations. There has been a lot of skepticism in Chamber about how useful this type of thing would be.
- Anamarija suggests envisioning the watershed using GIS and see how it relates. Have different layers for environmental assessment, municipalities and businesses that are there. That way, we can link things so that Exxon is linked to Boston Harbor then people and start realizing why we are doing this. Very important to reflect the vision so they can see the big picture. Could have some students help develop the maps.
- Once we have a strategy for the S.C. it might make sense to have a visual representation of everything that is working on.
- Any additional business suggestions should be sent to Ivey

Open Space Report Out

- The group met in early November and saw extraordinary mapping capabilities of MAPC.
- We went over how we are going to label data and what data we want to have in there.
- We talked about adding information on parking areas and places where people can access the river thru transportation.
- We need to decide how the public is going to use it. Who is the constituency and how are they going to use it? Families? Munis? Who are the end users?
- Joan is going to use north suburban committee and funding that she has to get some existing pathways in upper mystic.
- The group decided to continue to expand on the lower mystic with data and pictures and picking communities where we might expand our effort.
- Somerville and Malden are two of the communities that were chosen.
    - Somerville has a new green space planner
    - Malden River was left out of DCR's master plan for the reservation so we are going to explore it further to see how we can connect it.
- Then we identified 5 sites where we thought we could focus on achieving open space and access.
- Chemical Lane – Monsanto
    - MyRWA is prepared to make connections with the developer of the site and we're looking at how the developer can look at a plan on good public access and open space on the water's edge
- GE Everett
    - they have a plan already with a certificate from Chapter 91 (MassDEP).
    - It looks like they are going to do nice pathways and access.
    - The parking lots are very close to the open space,
    - maybe we should suggest they move the buildings around so that the entrances are closer to the open space instead of parking lots.
    - Whole site is 40 acres, whole waterfront would be accessible.
    - Unsure if they are doing dredging.
    - Developers have been very positive about keeping open space.
    - Waiting for a proposed leaser/buyer to come in and start the process.
    - Is there any flexibility about how they organize buildings on the site?
        - It's never really over until it's over. Once things start to move, they might be more optimistic, it could even be a different site plan at another point. The next time there is a decision point, they might file a notice of project change, or a group might sit down with Everett and go back over what we're trying to accomplish since the city will be a big player.
- Draw 7 in Somerville
    - Talked to environmental consultant that is working with Federal Reality on Chapter 91 and talked to MBTA developer of real estate.
    - Pathway between MBTA yard at Rt 99 – 12' pathway from Draw 7 to Route 99 and then on to the playground and Schrafft's.
    - Federal Realty has donated a lot of $ to help develop the pathway. This will happen when first building is finalized and occupied.

    - IKEA is still gong to build there, they have not withdrawn.
    - If MBTA joins collaboration with CWC and Groundwork Somerville, and Federal Reality, might get financial resources.
    - Pathway can't go in until failing bulkhead is reinforced.
- Sandy Beach
- DCR lands in Chelsea
    - We have been attempting to contact Chelsea Greenspace Alliance
    - Making this connection made a lot of sense to us

- Under a new grant proposal Joan roughed out a template how the data layer might look that integrates open space, transportation and access. Used Blessing of the Bay as a case study and picked out some information on transportation, location information, pictures, etc. Will send out link to Beta site so folks can comment on it before going too far down the road of populating the data layers, as well as a report of how this information has been put together from several different projects.
    - Suggestion put in realtime bus information (realbus.com)
- Are the layers are going to be integrated into MassGIS? They have identified wetlands areas of protection, shellfish, engangered speciies – might be useful to the committee at some point.
    - MAPC uses maps more for a planning tool, MassGIS uses maps for agency purposes. You can access this platform already thru MyRWA and MAPC's website
- URI did an urban harbors assessment, which might be useful to add to the database
- Chemical Lane property – Stage of development is early on. There are access issues being workout with a previous owner. It is a registered site with MassDEP. Patrick Johnston did a report reviewing all the history of the site. There is a new owner, there is no site plan. It is a brownfield that is in the MassDEP system. If we determine by looking at a few sites that these are key parcels for open space and access in the lower mystic, then maybe something we can develop as a stated consensus as a steering committee.
    - How do we fit in as a group interested in access to the river?
    - We need to think about how we create an interface. Ultimately there is an opportunity, this site is critically important.
    - It is the first parcel outside the boundaries of the DPA. The waterfront can be used for purposes other than marine based industry.
    - The role can be that the developer may need grants for remediation or might want to apply for park development purposes. If we are behind him completely, it's a win-win. It would be nice to explore how can we advance the vision = maybe graphics or student run charette to help develop the vision for this site. Nothing would get people more excited to go thru the hurdles than seeing the vision for the sites. It's a huge EJ issue so every organization and state agency needs to take that into account.
    - MAPC we received a $4M sustainable communities grant from HUD over three years. It is very complex.

        - One of the six areas is "place-based projects" that advance regional metro-future plan. There will be a steering committee to determine where $ goes and all non-profits are invited to participate so the more non-profits that go in and request membership in the consortium, the more clout this Steering Committee will have on how the money gets spent.
        - Joan could envision CLF, MyRWA, etc. joining and giving an idea to do visioning and planning work on this particular site. It doesn't have to be a huge project, it might just help push something forward and help shake loose other funding.
        - Joan will try to keep everyone on top of where the consortium is going, but all non-profits here need to be on the consortium.
    - We should include every successful urban river redevelopment including major universities.
    - Also have Boston Architectural College interested in design charettes. EPA cannot offer ideas for which sites to pick. They are going to start a project in January. If you want to approach the BAC, please contact EK and Anamarija
    - MassDEP Brownfield program has a targeting technical assistance to sites that are complex to help those projects get over hurdles and get thru the process so you get a team of people. They have made their FY11 choices, but could find out more for the FY12 cycle which will start in July.
    - The EPA also has BF funds and contractual possibilities that has to be with non-profit agencies.
    - It's important to approach a developer with other examples that we are working on in terms of open space and access. It provides them with an overall vision, and lets them know that they are part of portion of the river where great things are happening.
        - The Lower Mystic project was an attempt to do this, but we need to figure out how to add to the 11 sites. We need to add Chemical Lane and use the stable platform that shows opportunities to take it to another step where it's a better way to represent the vision.
    - We need to establish priorities because if we can get consensus from this group and bring in wing groups, it will lead to momentum.

Update of Mission and Priorities

- Finalize this as a mission for 2011 priorities statement.
- Group offered several language changes and edits to the mission and priorities statement (revised statement attached).
- Is it possible WQ and OS committees to recommend 3-4 actions to incorporate into this mission at the next meeting. ** indicate to Steering Committee so that we can get a quorum**
- There may be remaining open questions but there could still be 3 or 4 action items recommended for 2011.

- WQ needs to think of this as 2011 goals and focus on some of the short-term things.
- Joan offered to host next meeting at MAPC and get a presentation on the Sustainability grant program. Would provide an opportunity to make a case and to shake loose some of the money.

Administrative Discussion

- Time frame – both groups will be meeting in December. Both should meet a few times before we meet again.
- Proposal: at next meeting, adopt this final for 2011 mission and priorities. Can the committee request the two small groups supply 3 or 4 priorities in advance of the meeting.
- The tentative date has been decided as Wednesday, February 16th, 2011 at MAPC – Wednesday. Joan will check on the room. Work to bring out as many people as we can. Then establish the meetings based on what we're attempting to accomplish.
- Need to discuss Community Support – everyone working in their own networks, but we need to bring in the public behind the mission and the vision.
- One function of the committee is that we represent a lot of constituents. Once we make a decision, we will go back and groundtruth. We need to make decisions. We have substantial numbers of community and municipal interests.
- Media opportunity would be at the report card event and then have some time to engage people on the ground and in communities. If we can establish priority actions then we can unfurl as an objective for 2011.

11:25 -11:30 *Announcements*

- Nov 22, 2010 at 7:30pm – Showing of a video on Malden River being held at Tufts boathouse.
- Umass Boston looking to engage students as interns during the summer. Can always give them credit. Looking for opportunities to be hands-on. Please send ideas as to how they might be able to participate. Then engage students starting soon to prepare for summer and during next semester.
- December 12, 2010 at 2pm there will be a celebration for Alewife (Contact Ellen Mass for more information)
- January 11, 2011 from 9am to 1pm at EPA – science forum will be held. More information is posted on the website.
- Charlestown has gone through community replanning for Rutherford Avenue. Thought they removed 2 tunnels and reduced Rutherford Avenue from 8 lanes to 4 and reduced roadway surface by a lot giving a green path. Rep. Capuano doesn't agree with removing the tunnels. Neighborhood council is asking the

Rep. to come to meetings to share with support of removing the tunnels. Will keep folks updated.

Follow-Up Actions

- Open Space group has a conference call on Dec 13.
- Joan will send out link to Blessing of the Bay case study and a report describing how this project came to be.
- Karen Pelto will provide more information to the Steering Committee regarding the MassDEP's Brownfield technical assistance program
- Open Space group needs to come up with 3-4 priorities by the next meeting
- Water Quality group also needs to come up with 3-4 priorities by the next meeting
- MAPC check to see if room is available for February 16, 2011

Mystic River Watershed Steering Committee Sign-in Sheet
November 17, 2010

Name	Organization	E-mail address
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