Herring River Restoration Project

“Return of the Tide”

Friends of Herring River
August 18, 2015

www.friendsofherringriver.org
Agenda

• Welcome and Introductions
• “Thinking Outside the Dike”
  • Ed DeWitt, Executive Director, Association to Preserve Cape Cod
• “Report and Observations”
  • Ethan Estey, Herring Warden, Town of Wellfleet
• Project Activity & Planning Update
  • Don Palladino, President, Friends of Herring River
• Chequessett Neck Road Bridge
  • Nils Wiberg, Associate, Fuss & O’Neill, Inc.
• Questions and Discussion
Herring River Restoration
Project Activity & Planning Update

Agenda

• What is the objective of this project and why is it important?
• How is the work being done?
• What’s happening this year?
• What’s the timeline and budget?
Herring River Restoration
What is the objective of this project?

• Remove existing restrictions in the river and its tributaries to allow controlled incremental return of natural tidal flow to and from the estuary.

• Why?
  • Restore a healthy and productive tidal salt marsh
  • Reduce pollution (nitrogen, coliform bacteria)
  • Restore lost harvestable finfish and shellfish areas
  • Improve water quality
  • Enhance opportunities for recreation
  • Prevent the ongoing degradation of the estuary
Herring River Restoration
Chequesett Neck

Original vs. current opening (since 1909)

Concept to replace the existing dike

Bridge with control gates removed
Herring River Restoration
How is the work being done?

• Representing the project partners, the Herring River Restoration Committee directs planning and provides technical direction

• Partnerships provide support, funding, expertise, etc.

• Friends of Herring River seeks funding, awards and administers grants and contracts and continues public outreach

• Public participation in the planning process
Herring River Restoration
Supporting Organizations

- Association to Preserve Cape Cod
- Cape Cod Conservation District
- **Cape Cod National Seashore** *
- Coastal America Foundation
- Conservation Law Foundation
- Ducks Unlimited
- Friends of Cape Cod National Seashore
- Friends of Herring River
- Herring River Technical & Stakeholder Committees
- MA Bays Program
- **MA Division of Ecological Restoration** *

- MA Environmental Trust
- National Park Service
- **Natural Resource Conservation Service** *
- The Nature Conservancy
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration *
- **Town of Truro** *
- US Geological Survey
- **US Fish & Wildlife Service** *
- **Town of Wellfleet** *
- Wellfleet Conservation Trust

* Herring River Restoration Committee
Herring River Restoration
What’s Happening This Year?

• Engineering and design
  ✓ Continue design development
  ✓ Hydrodynamic modeling to verify designs
  ✓ Cultural resource and rare species studies
  ✓ Adaptive management planning – what happens when tidal flow is restored?

• Public outreach with property owners

• Friends of Herring River Executive Director
Herring River Restoration
What’s Happening This Year (cont.)

• Final Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR)

• Memorandum of Understanding III
  ✓ Executed when the Towns and Seashore approve the preferred solution (Alternative D) and the EIS/EIR is approved at the federal and state levels
  ✓ Prescribes roles and responsibilities
  ✓ Establishes the project organizational structure
Herring River Restoration
What’s the timeline?

• 2015 – Decision on approved plan
• 2015/2016 – Continue on-going discussions with private property owners
• 2015 / 2016 – Continue engineering & design
• 2016/2017 – Submit requests and obtain local, state and federal permits
• 2016 / 2017 – Secure project funding
• 2017 / 2018 – Begin construction
Herring River Restoration
Current Year Budget

• $1,000,000 - Federal grant (NOAA)
• $1,000,000 - Commonwealth of Massachusetts
• $40,000 – Massachusetts Environmental Trust
• $25,000 – US Fish and Wildlife Service
• $5,000 - Individual contributions to Friends of Herring River

Plus average 1500 volunteer hours per year used to provide in–kind match for project grants – equates to approximately $45,000 of in-kind services