

**DRAFT Summary of  
Meeting of the Taunton Bay Advisory Group  
6 PM Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Sullivan Town Hall  
Minutes by Matthew Nixon, Senior Planner  
Maine State Planning Office**

**Advisors Present:** Steve Perrin, Shep Erhart

**Others:** Linda Mercer, Matthew Nixon, Julia Caldwell, John Sowles

**Introductory Matters:**

Steve Perrin and Shep Erhart, being the only advisors present, began providing answers to some of John's questions.

**Current Initiatives and Volunteer Updates**

- Matt Nixon provided an update on Dr. Otto's water quality analysis and human use mapping in addition to the volunteer water quality work that has happened. Dr. Otto will be providing a report to Matt by the end of December.

**Fisheries Issues**

- DMR would be interested in delineating protected areas for horseshoe crabs and eelgrass. However, there is no easy way to delineate and enforce the boundaries of these areas.

**Discussion with John Sowles**

- John described why he was creating a report for and how useful it could be. His primary reason for being here was to try and figure out what should be in the report. John then asked if the group wanted him to build time into the writing process for them to both provide input and/or to write specific sections. It was decided that both Shep and Steve, and Lee and Frank – despite their absence would be interested in being involved in the report writeup.
- Shep would prefer that each section be provided at a time to facilitate comments by the reviewers.
- John suggested that perhaps he should distribute a draft report prior to the interviews and then receive comments on the draft. Additionally, the first meeting after the legislative sunset in December would be an educational presentation by John Sowles in January about the final report.

- Another issue was decision-making. Steve suggested that over time, the group got better listening to each other about things that they did not want to hear.
- Fear is another issue that was consistently present throughout the group's meetings.

### **Discussion with Steve Perrin**

- How to prevent attrition: appoint folks who are fully invested, not people because they are from a specific geography. You need to find a group of people who are really invested or live on or work on the bay.
  - John asked how you would get a large group interested in different parts of the geography. Steve did not seem to think that it could happen.
- Shep seemed to think that the small numbers of stakeholders has been both the boon and the bane of the group
- Communication:
  - Steve suggested that stewardship buy in by all parties was also an issue.
  - Steve also suggested that additional education to the group on topics that the group is going to be making decisions on.

### **Adjournment and the Next Meeting**

It was decided that ten next meeting of the Group would be in the Sullivan Town Hall at 6:00 PM on January 11<sup>th</sup>.