

**DRAFT Summary of  
Meeting of the Taunton Bay Advisory Group  
6 PM Tuesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Friends of Taunton Bay Education Center  
Facilitated by Matthew Nixon  
State Planning Office  
Summary Recording by Elliot Russell**

**Advisors Present:** Steve Perrin, Shep Erhart, Frank Dorsey, Doug Kimmel, Lee Hudson, Antonio Blasi

**Others:** Linda Mercer, Matthew Nixon, Elliot Russell, Sherman Hoyt

**Introductory Matters:**

Matthew Nixon opened the meeting, giving floor time to Sherman Hoyt, who proceeded to explain his new capacity as a “public listening member” with the group as opposed to a facilitator. Sherm mentioned that there are financial resources from organizations that could be drawn in due to limited state resources.

It was indicated that with the current Management Plan discussion the group would certainly be putting more focus on ecosystems thus facilitating the application process to certain types of grants that would be helpful in progressing the groups work.

**Fisheries Updates:**

- Mussel Harvest
  - Linda Mercer said that there had been a mussel harvester meeting earlier today. Letters were sent to six mussel harvesters who signed up and were at the meeting.
  - Two areas would be opened to muscle harvesting (B and G), part of area A has been suggested to be opened as well.
  - Conversation then focused on how harvest may affect horseshoe crab populations and breeding in particular areas.
  
- Urchin Harvest
  - A Bay-wide survey in (one day) indicated that there is a slightly lower abundance than in past years.

- Water Quality Updates:
  - Control samples from the University of Maryland lab have not been returned yet. Dr. Otto is waiting to see the results to in order to compare tests.

### **Draft Transition Plan Discussion:**

Change first section of bullets to start with verbs to match the second set

- (1<sup>st</sup> bullet) Page 1 should be changed to: “Continue to facilitate harvester’s interaction with DMR”)
- Jon came up with a fisheries management scene they tested it for several years, but now DMR wants to change things slightly to simplify what fisheries management will be in the future.

It would seem that local level research and scientific monitoring should transition more towards fisherman than to DMR. How does the group organize its own relationship with the fishermen in the Bay to work with them (currently the fishermen work with DMR and some are reluctant to meet with the advisory group)?

- Add “facilitate” to 5<sup>th</sup> bullet at the beginning
- (4<sup>th</sup> Bullet) Add commas instead of the dashes and remove “and growing stewardship”
- Remove conversely from above the second group of bullets.
- One second page remove “the difference being...mandate” (2<sup>nd</sup> sentence).

Without a mandate how will the group “elect/appoint” people? People could submit their names for appointment (advertise the positions). There was discussion as to who would be able to appoint people to the group. John’s original model was to have 12 people, from different aspects of the Bay involved, appointed by the Commissioner of DMR.

- Decision to remove “elected” from the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence, page 2.
- There was also concern to limiting the group to having only 3 meetings per year. It was decided to add “at least three”.

The whole section that refers to the fisheries regulation draft document could be removed

Also remove the first part of the last sentence of the 1<sup>st</sup> roles paragraph from “while fisheries...advice”

- Sea Grant could prepare an annual presentation
- The second sentence in last paragraph should be changed to “could be” instead of “should be”, and “ultimate” should be changed with “possible”
- It was also decided to change the credibility in the second to last sentence

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

It was decided that ten next meeting of the Group would be in the Taunton Bay Education Center on September 21<sup>st</sup> 6:00 pm