









# Hog Island Newton Creek Ecological Restoration Master Plan September 2007 Appendices Workshop Materials











#### HOG ISLAND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION MASTER PLAN HOG ISLAND COMMITTEE MEETING BONG HERITAGE CENTER, Superior, WI September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006 - 10:00AM – 12:00PM

# MEETING MINUTES

Attendance list included as an attachment to this document.

At 10:20 AM - Christine Ostern from Douglas County calls the meeting to order. Minutes from the previous meeting of the Committee are approved. Introductions of attendees are performed, with each attendee stating his or her name and affiliation.

At 10:25AM – Karen Rodriguez from USEPA Great Lakes National Program Office introduces herself and provides some information on the project background:

- Relation of Hog Island project to AOCs (Areas of Concern) and explanation of Hog Island as a pilot restoration project being funded by USEPA.
- Long-term goal is to delist the St. Louis River AOC and improve the condition of recognized BUIs in the St. Louis River area.
- USEPA awarded a contract to Biohabitats to create an Ecological Restoration Master Plan for Hog Island.
- This process is intended to be collaborative and transparent.
- Information and data sharing is encouraged.
- This project is going to move quickly (completed by May, 2007.)
- USEPA is interested in helping implement this project from planning, through design, construction, and monitoring phases of ecological restoration.

At 10:35AM – Keith Bowers from Biohabitats, Inc. introduces Biohabitats and the Biohabitats project team (Keith Bowers, principal and owner; Ivette Bolender, project manager; Jeremy Thomas, project technical lead). Mr. Bowers requests that meeting attendees introduce themselves once again and state their personal or professional interest / goals in the project. Meeting attendees provide longer explanations of their individual or institutional roles. Mr. Bowers then presents the meeting agenda, and discusses the following:

- As defined by the USEPA contract with Biohabitats, the scope of this project includes Hog Island, the Hog Island inlet, and 1.5 miles of Newton Creek upstream from the inlet.
- The goals and objectives of the Hog Island Ecological Restoration Master Plan will be defined by the stakeholder group.
- Biohabitats objectives in the project:
  - To create a consensus-driven master planning process.
  - To create a participatory process between all stakeholders.
  - To create a plan that is practical and pragmatic.
  - To create a plan that is cost effective.
  - The process is as important as the product. To define a process that can be applied to other AOC projects in the Great Lakes bioregion.
- Philosophical approach:

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- You (the Committee) are the experts. The role of Biohabitats is to lend our expertise and experience in ecological restoration and planning, and to facilitate the creation of the Master Plan.
- The product (the master planning document) follows, and is born out of, the participatory planning process.
- Why do a master plan? A master plan is a guiding document that can be used to leverage / guide individual restoration projects. Master plans can be used to help facilitate ecological efforts that are multi-jurisdictional, and that require a multi-year implementation effort. In addition, they provide continuity of a project over long time horizons, help define priorities for a diverse range of stakeholders, can help to attract or enable funding for the project, and can be used as a public relations tool by managing agencies.
- How to implement ecological restoration on an artificial island? Biohabitats has had experience doing this in other areas such as Dike 14 in Cleveland, Ohio and artificial islands created from dredge spoils in the Chesapeake Bay. Ecological restoration can be defined as restoring a landscape or natural system to a state that that is self-sustaining and resilient. We will use the SER (Society for Ecological Restoration www.ser.org) primer on Ecological Restoration to help define the attributes of a restored ecological system.

At this point, a question is raised by one of the attendees: "With a defined project area, how does Hog Island fit into the larger St. Louis River AOC? How does one do a master plan for a specific area?" Keith Bowers answers that Hog Island is intended to be a pilot project to demonstrate how ecological restoration can be used to improve BUIs in an AOC. Jeremy Thomas explains that despite the fact that this project has discreet bounds, the larger biological and physical connectivity to the landscape will be evaluated as part of the master planning process. Karen Rodriguez adds that the process is the important link to the larger St. Louis River AOC. If it can be applied here – it can be applied to other areas of the St. Louis River.

Keith Bowers and Ivette Bolender present the project workplan, including the public workshops as well as the content of the master plan. Data collection and acquisition to be completed by October 31st, 2006. Existing conditions analysis and data synthesis to be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006. First public workshop to be held in the first two weeks on January. Draft master plan to be released by February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Second public to be held in the middle of March, 2007. Final Hog Island Ecological Restoration Master Plan to be completed by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. The Master Plan will contain an assessment of current conditions, specific restoration goals and objectives, specific restoration actions, cost estimates, and an implementation schedule and timeline.

Attendee question: "What commitments do the property owners have to make?" Biohabitats: That will be addressed during the process, and the final plan will take into account issues relating to public and private properties within the project site.

Attendee question: "What is ecological restoration?" Biohabitats: Refer to the SER Primer on Ecological Restoration as a benchmark for definitions and attributes of a restored ecological system.

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Attendee question: "How will we resolve barriers to implementation and decision-making?" Biohabitats / USEPA: During the public workshops, we aim to garner a common vision and goals to guide the process.

Keith Bowers presents other projects that Biohabitats has worked on that serve as examples of an ecological restoration master planning process, including Dike 14 in Cleveland, OH, Four Mile Run in Alexandria, VA, Jamaica Bay in New York City, and others.

Finally, Keith Bowers and Jeremy Thomas describe the data collection process and mention the ftp site that Biohabitats will use to collect and disseminate information. They request that the meeting attendees provide Biohabitats with any information and data sources that they are aware of for use in the planning process. The Committee responded with the following:

- SEH (Charlene Johnson) already has a lot of information collected. Available through a web portal.
- GIS data available at the Land Records Department at Douglas County. Contact Randy Jones.
- Topography may be available from the Superior Women's Plan that was created 25 years ago.
- Reference site information may be available from the NRI & EPA Great Lakes Environmental Indicators Project. Six wetlands sites are in Douglas County. Good accounts of vegetation and water quality.
- Seiches are very important!!!
- Duluth ACOE may have topography data
- Macroinvertebrate studies have been done in the Newton Creek area both pre and post remediation project. Need approximately \$2500 to properly categorize them and make data available.
- NOAA website has a good historical map collection.
- Historical Sanborn maps available at UWS library archives.
- Graduate research theses may provide some good info ask Charlene for research done by Dave Schimpf (sp?) and Gary Bolser (sp?).
- Old Bordner survey maps may provide good shoreline reference.

A group discussion about the best time to hold the first public workshop was held, it was decided that an afternoon / evening meeting would be most appropriate.

11:55AM – Christine Ostern announces that a Hog Island site visit will begin at 1:15PM and describes directions to the site.

12:00PM – Meeting is adjourned.

#### **Follow-up items:**

- 1) Biohabitats to create meeting minutes and attendance list and send to Committee.
- 2) Biohabitats to make a project workplan and schedule available to Committee.

3) The date and time of the first public workshop needs to be proposed and agreed upon. This should occur soon.

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#### Hog Island Meeting Attendance Sept 12th, 2006 Bong Heritage Center

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Christine	Ostern	Douglas County Consveration Dept.	1313 Belknap St, Room 206, Superior, WI 54880	715-395-1266	christine.ostern@douglascountywi.org
Dennis	Pratt	WDNR	1401 Tower Ave, Superior, WI 54880	715-392-7990	dennis.pratt@dnr.state.wi.us
John	Robinson	WDNR	1401 Tower Ave, Superior, WI 54880	715-365-8976	john.robinson@dnr.state.wi.us
Karen	Rodriguez	USEPA	Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO), 77 W. Jackson, G-17J, Chicago, IL 60604	312-353-2690	rodriguez.karen@epa.gov
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Hog Island Ecological Restoration Project Public Workshop #1 January 10, 2007 WITC Conference Center, Superior, WI

# **MEETING MINUTES**

Workshop facilitated by Jeremy Thomas, Keith Bowers, and Ivette Bolender of Biohabitats, Inc.

# **I. Introduction Section – 8:30AM**

Jeremy Thomas, Biohabitats:

Please introduce yourselves, and answer the following questions:1) What do you want to get out of this workshop today?2) What is your personal connection to this area?

Jeremy Thomas, Biohabitats:1) Wants to integrate local stakeholder expertise, goals, and objectives into Hog Island restoration process.2) Just getting to know area, but loved spending time on Hog Island and along Newton Creek during field reconnaissance effort.

Ivette Bolender, Biohabitats:

1) Wants to see project succeed.

2) Plans on participating in local marathon.

Keith Bowers, Biohabitats: 1) Harness expertise and dialogue.

2) Howk Bidge / natural boouty of arc

2) Hawk Ridge / natural beauty of area.

Mark Hirschfield, MPCA:1) Examine Biohabitats public process, and how to bring ideas into a plan. We are fortunate to have Hog Island as first remediation project.2) Hog Island can be an example for Minnesota.

Gary Walton:1) Here to find out what's been happening with Hog Island.2) Experience in the area with rare plants.

Dennis Pratt, WI DNR:1) Here for work and looking forward to figuring out how to improve to area. Involved in fishery for 20+ years.2) Superior City resident.



# Steve LaValley, WI DNR:

1) Here to investigate the potential workload for permitting.

2) Parents grew up near here.

Alina Heyd, Service Engineering:1) Learn about process.2) Working near there (Talus Island).

Bill Majewski, St. Louis River CAC:

Have Biohabitats know as much as we know. Needs to be a natural area, not a playground.
 Lived in the area since 1965. Appreciate the environment and whole estuary area.

John Lindgren, MN DNR:

1) Initial evaluation of Biohabitats. Apply knowledge to other parts of the estuary (Talus Island). Actively developing restoration plans for other areas. Chair of Land Conservancy for Douglas County – Co-chair of CAC.

2) Strong personal connection to area.

Ted Korzhler, Ashland office of FWS: 1) Representing Fish & Wildlife Service's habitat restoration programs.

Kris Benson, Enbridge:

1) Here to explore opportunities for a partnership with Enbridge Energy.

2) Lived here – very interested in outdoors.

Charlene Johnson, SEH:

1) Wants to help develop restoration plans for the region. Have already worked a lot with City of Superior.

Larry Brooke, Hog Island Work Group:

Here to see what plans are. Studied sediments prior to remediation project. Follow-up studies continue. Hopeful we can improve beauty of the city and protect area.
 Lives near here.

Liz Lundmark, Murphy Oil: 1) Here to find out what the ideas are for Hog Island / Newton Creek and contribute.

2) Born and raised in Duluth.

Jane Anklam, West WI Land Trust:

1) Here to find out how a land trust could work for Hog Is / Newton Creek. Just purchased Bluff Creek near Hog Island and wanted to see similarities.

2) Personally like working with everyone here.

Mike Anderson:



2) Grew up here near the Nemadji River. Familiar with the project area as a kayak and canoe guide. Strong spiritual connection to the area.

Karen Rodriguez, EPA:

- 1) GLNPO is funding Biohabitats to develop this restoration plan.
- 2) Mike A. took me on my 1<sup>st</sup> canoe trip in the area!

Danielle Green, EPA:

1) Want to see a polluted area turned into an ecological vision.

2) Only the second time in the area.

Beth Hinchey-Malloy, Sea Grant representing Susan Boehme: 1) Interested in finding a source of funding for this kind of effort to occur in other places.

Christine Ostern, Douglas County:

1) Excited to harness outside expertise (EPA and Biohabitats) and potential for this as an example. Feels strongly about protecting resources. Sees Hog Island as an educational resource.

Mary Morgan, City of Superior Parks and Recreation: 1) Here for the Mayor and interested in the work. Wants to find out what constitutes an ecological restoration plan.

Kari Jacobsen Hedin, City of Superior Stormwater:1) Works for the stormwater planning department with the City of Superior. Spent one year monitoring Newton Creek water quality at two sites.

Duane Lahti, WI DNR:

1) Involved with clean-up and remediation, classic experience of local, federal and state collaboration working together with citizens groups. Wants to see an exclamation point put on remediation of this area, hopefully restoration will be low-impact and self-sustaining.

Scott Ireland, EPA:

1) Wants to see the next step after remediation—most remediation stops before restoration. In future projects, what can be done on the front end that we can factor in to our remediation work?

Dick Kamm, Biology teacher: 1) Plant ecologist who grew up in the area.

Lindsay Hogfeldt, SEH: 1) Getting familiar with the process.

Jeremy Thomas, Biohabitats:

Thanks for your participation. Overview of the day – review of the agenda.



Description of how workshop information will be used in planning process:

- It will help to define the vision, goals, and strategies that we will be the foundation of the Ecological Restoration Master Plan.
- Ultimate goal = delisting BUIs.

Comments from participants:

- o Clarification about how this will fit into the WDNR / SEH de-listing criteria.
- Concern that money will disappear without AOC designation.
- o Discussion about roles-targeting/criteria.

# II. Hog Island Inventory and Analysis (Posters and Presentation) - 9:30AM

Jeremy Thomas, Biohabitats:

Characterization of existing conditions:

- Lots of information already complied (LSLRHP, etc.)
- The entire region already has a lot of momentum towards ecological restoration / habitat protection.
- We recognize that people in the room are invested in this area. Lots of regional expertise.
- Biohabitats spent 2 days in the field in October 2006, characterizing the site and collecting ecological and physical data.
- Posters on walls contain information about site conditions. People asked to write comments and corrections directly on boards (see *Hog Island Posters*).

Karen Rodriguez, EPA:

Presents background of project scope and Biohabitats, EPA roles. Discussion of how this overlaps with / integrates existing remediation efforts.

Jeremy Thomas, Biohabitats:

PowerPoint presentation on restoration project and site characterization (see *Hog Island Workshop 011107.ppt*)

General comments:

- Current City of Superior population = 27,108 people. Less than what is was in late 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- SEH has assessments that identify vegetative communities in Newton Creek will provide to Biohabitats.
- One habitat type—"sheltered bay"—most threatened, listed in the LSLRHP plan— "industrially-influenced bay" would be restored to that, objectives would be aimed at "sheltered bay".
- Regional landscape—flyway, important bird area. Creek has patchy vegetation and barriers to fish passage.



- Plan should have expectations over time for Newton Creek.
- City designation as special use doesn't mean it's "protected". Not protected by ordinance.
- Archery/hunting—part of deer reduction program.
- o "High-finned carpsucker" not an invasive in the project site.
- Newton Creek watershed a potential candidate for surface water runoff monitoring?
- What's in the stormwater runoff? Undetermined source of nutrients in Newton Creek.
- Is sediment contamination still an issue? Areas remain where contaminants have migrated into the floodplain area and have not been remediated. Inlet—removed down to a certain standard. Residual surface contaminants still may be a problem.
- Political process—within city and owned by the county, education piece is critical, encourage city/county discussion.
- o Land conservation committee is different from the land committee.
- Riparian zone terminology—why riparian into the process? Trying to restore functional ecosystems. Exchange of nutrients, flooding, riparian—zone of influence outside of the channel, communities influenced by hydrology, channel, sediment etc. Restoration of channel—critical.
- Can we define the zone? Difficult because dealing with altered hydrologic regime, riparian zone in the creek is difficult to define because not a well-defined floodplain. Might want to establish a riparian area or not.
- Talk about where we're at and not history. No part of the system that wasn't altered. Goal is to say where we are and what we want the future to look like. Not focusing on human influence but on where we want to be—the best that we can.
- City of Superior and Douglas county working on plans. What do we know about the development plans right now? Interaction between planning efforts of city and county right now.
- Term restoration—action or activity or bring it back to what it used to be. Call it rehabilitation or enhancement for the public—will be defining terms this public meeting.
- Cleanup standard in Hog Island 2.5 PAHs. SEH will be incorporating residual contamination in Newton Creek (overpass to the river).

# III. Visioning Exercise (Bumper Stickers) - 11:00AM

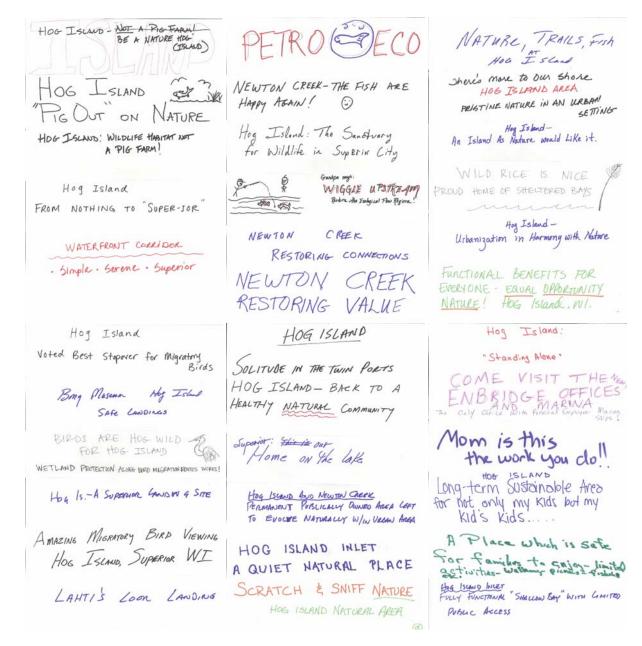
#### Keith Bowers, Biohabitats:

Explanation of bumper-sticker visioning exercise:

- What is the big picture—vision for the site?
- What would you want grandkids to see, hear, smell?
- Describe aspirations of how you want the site to be.
- Want to try to project vision to others succinctly.

Each participant is given two 11" x 2.5" strips of paper – representing "bumper stickers", and asked to write their "visions" for Hog Island and Newton Creek on them, according to the criteria listed above (*see below and file HI\_Visioning\_BumperStickers.pdf for results*).





#### Bumper-sticker themes:

- o Wildlife habitat
- o Fish habitat
- Migratory bird habitat
- Ecological functionality
- o Ecological sustainability
- o Restoring connectivity / corridors
- o Ecological flows in Newton Creek
- o Natural area
- o Nature in an urban area



- o Superior City asset
- o Solitude / quiet
- o Limited access / human use
- o Trails

#### General comments / discussion about bumper stickers:

- Difficult to choose words that tell us the location (Hog Island vs. Newton Creek). This is a challenge in the public presentation.
- Newton Creek Watershed is the goal—needs to be protected in order to protect the inlet. Now it has a negative connotation.
- Need to look at the whole Newton Creek watershed. Focus on the upstream areas whole basin planning.
- Is it desirable to restore streamflow? How feasible is it? Historically, it was probably an intermittent stream. If Murphy Oil goes away, what happens to the creek?
- How does the restoration process affect homeowners along the creek?
- Should the focus be on the inlet and island, not the stream?
- Public ownership—it needs to be valued.
- Culverts and bridges—anything we can do about removing barriers? Would involve city and private entities.
- o Regardless of ownership-need to encourage valuing stream.
- Public access area would draw people potential for education.
- Hog Island is known to the community, but not familiar to them. We need to establish some public interest in the value of the stream corridor.
- How can we effectively initiate the marketing/branding of this site to the greater public? Watershed capacity building. Involve church and landowners in the ultimate care of the resource.

# Lunch – 12:00PM

# IV. Goal-Setting Exercise (Slider Boards) - 1:00 PM

#### Jeremy Thomas, Biohabitats:

Now that we have worked to define a vision for this restoration project, we need you to help us prioritize what we are trying to attain. On the walls, there are 20 statements that describe attributes of ecological restoration. On these boards, each participant will place a "dot" along the slider from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree", ranking their overall agreement with the statement.

Participants queried if there are any other statements which should be added to the list provided, and ranked according to the process described.

Questions added:



1) "The restoration should maximize biodiversity of habitats, instead of creating single-species habitat."

2) "The level of maintenance of human intervention should be controlled to limit the natural succession of the site."

Participants asked to place their dots on the posters (*see HI\_PubWorkshop\_SliderBoards.pdf file for results*).

Slider Board Comments (in the order they were discussed at the workshop):

#17: "Human uses which compromise the long-term ecological sustainability of Hog Island and Newton Creek should be restricted."

- Strongly or mostly agree.
- Several mostly disagree—not a natural watershed, 10% impervious surface so is this sustainable? Not sure watershed is sustainable because of current condition.
- Could do some things to mitigate.
- Maybe a difference between answers for Hog Island and Newton Creek.
- Goal of where we are now—implies it's a natural system.
- o Box is around Murphy Oil—what is meant by human uses?
- Would rather see degradation where it's already degraded prefer to see any development remain in the city limits.
- Will want to reduce impacts that would cause it to fail.
- Need other pieces to the strategy.
- Looked at it in two ways—site and site and surrounding area.
- Watershed is already impacted do not want to restrict current uses.
- Let's make it the best it can be.

#18: "The Hog Island and Newton Creek restoration planning and design process should remain flexible, to allow for the integration of new information and stakeholder interests."

- Strongly or mostly agree.
- Political view—mistrust—need to take stronger ownership—don't want someone building a nuclear plant there in the future.
- Don't like leaving this open for development into a different use.

#13: "The restoration of Newton Creek should include watershed-wide strategies, instead of concentrating solely on the channel and riparian corridor."

- Strongly or mostly agree.
- Without a watershed-wide focus, there will be limits on the potential success of goals.
- Boundary for the project should be set by the basin.

#14: "The Hog Island and Newton Creek restoration project should maximize the use of volunteers, and provide educational opportunities for the local community."

- Divided between strongly agree and I'm not sure.
- Because there are toxic hot spots in the vicinity—exposure and potential remediation wouldn't encourage it.



- Volunteers and educational opportunities maybe should have been separated—education through volunteering.
- There should not be direct contact with remaining contamination.
- Ownership issues—not all public land.
- Safety issues.
- Important to the project but not to implementation.
- Signage interpretation.

#15: "What is an acceptable timeframe for the realization of the VISION for a restored Hog Island / Newton Creek?"

1 year

→ 50 years

- Distributed from strongly disagree to strongly agree.
- Timeframe for implementing or for full realization are different maybe responsible for varied responses.
- In terms of implementing a design—5 years to get things going, depending on the vision that will dictate the design.
- Window of funding.
- Need a realistic goal that is longer-term.
- Some things can be shorter term.
- Need milestones of progression so we can show improvement—could show that to funding sources.
- The work of restoration should happen within five years but management and realization of the vision may take decades.
- It may take years to get things going.
- No vision defined yet.
- If we delay, we miss opportunities.

#16: "Hog Island and Newton Creek should be placed under permanent protection through direct acquisition, conservation easement, or other conservation methods."

- o Mostly and strongly agree.
- Protecting our investment.

#11: "No active restoration initiatives need to be performed for Hog Island and Newton Creek. Just let nature take over from here."

- o Mostly disagree or not sure.
- Nature taking its course involves invasive these days.
- Without a vision how do you know?
- o Intention to let Hog Island go but protection from invasive species is still necessary.
- Some effort to jump start what would happen naturally.
- Not sure what jump starting is.
- Seed source protected during remediation as much as possible.
- Let nature take its course.
- Restoration to protect existing resource.
- Depends on what we're talking about here.



#12: "Recreation and human access to Hog Island and Newton Creek should be maximized during and after the restoration process."

- Distributed from strongly disagree to strongly agree.
- Not before or during but after restoration.
- Are we talking direct access or visual access?
- o Slanted towards not allowing access-or not sure.
- Potential—trails, stay on pathways.
- o Depends on degree of recreation—seems more toward passive.
- Refuge for threatened or endangered species—could be a range.
- Err on the conservative side of access.
- Want people to have access, but also protection

Added: "The restoration should maximize biodiversity of habitats, instead of creating single-species habitat."

- Strongly agree.
- Maximize biodiversity.

Added: "The level of maintenance of human intervention should be controlled to limit the natural succession of the site."

- o Level maintenance and human intervention.
- o Mostly disagree.

#19: "The Hog Island and Newton Creek restoration project should integrate the goals of the Lower St Louis River Habitat Plan to the greatest extent practicable."

- o Strongly agree.
- No additional comments.

#20: "Before any active restoration takes place, we should take a 'wait and see' attitude."

- Distributed from strongly disagree to strongly agree.
- May lose opportunity to see what comes back after remediation.
- Would let us know if we need to go in and spend dollars.
- Things take time to respond.
- If we wait too long the dollars may go somewhere else.
- Should do something—there are opportunities and there are opportunities to let things go.
- We may miss out on monitoring opportunities.
- Let natural succession occur.
- o Remediation just took place, takes time to respond. Let's see where we're at first.
- Plug for the larger processes in the estuary.

#9: "Hog Island and Newton Creek should be self-sustaining to the same degree as its reference ecosystem, and has the potential to persist indefinitely under existing environmental conditions. As in any intact ecosystem, the species composition and other attributes of a restored ecosystem may evolve as environmental conditions change."

- o Mostly agree.
- What's a reference ecosystem?



- Template for measuring success.
- Suggest questions be simplified for the public meeting.
- Maybe events we have no control over.
- Highly impacted urban stream—don't think it can ever be self sustaining so will need a management piece.
- Leave room for it to be what it wants to be

#10: "Newton Creek should be restored to its original, pre-development morphology."

- Strongly or mostly disagree.
- Historically it was an ephemeral creek.

#1: "Hog Island and Newton Creek should contain characteristic assemblages of species that occur in a reference ecosystem and that provide appropriate community structure."

• Mostly or strongly agree.

#2: "Hog Island and Newton Creek should contain indigenous species to the greatest practicable extent."

- Mostly or strongly agree to mostly disagree.
- No problem with surrogate species if you don't have the natives.
- o May need keystone species.
- Changed system, don't want to spend a lot of effort on getting rid of invasives.
- DNR has a list of species.
- Some surrogate species you wouldn't want.
- Dredged spoil islands have been colonized by natives—not impossible to achieve.
- Many non-indigenous species entering right now.

#3: "In a restored Hog Island and Newton Creek, all functional groups necessary for the continued development and/or stability of the restored ecosystem are represented or, if they are not, the missing groups have the potential to colonize by natural means."

- Mostly agree but some mostly disagree.
- Didn't like "all" in the statement.
- Missing groups have potential—could they get there?
- Landscape connectivity—difficult to do.

#4: "The Hog Island and Newton Creek physical environment is capable of sustaining reproducing populations of the species necessary for its continued stability or development along the desired trajectory."

- Mostly or strongly agree.
- Haven't defined trajectory yet.
- Climate change—how will that affect this?
- Self sustaining instead of sustaining/reproducing—doesn't mean they can survive after egg-laying (fish) could mean sustain by stocking.
- Separate the two.



#5: "Signs of ecological or physical dysfunction should be absent in the restored Hog Island and Newton Creek landscape."

- Mostly disagree, mostly agree, & not sure.
- If it is going to be used for educational purposes, leave a section as historical legacy.
- We will never be able to remove dysfunctionality.

#6: "Hog Island and Newton Creek should be suitably integrated into a larger ecological matrix or landscape, with which it interacts through abiotic and biotic flows and exchanges."

• Mostly to strongly agree.

#7: "Potential threats to the health and integrity of Hog Island and Newton Creek should be eliminated or reduced as much as possible."

- Distributed from strongly disagree to strongly agree.
- How much will it cost?
- What are they?
- Resiliency needs to be built-in.
- Would rather sacrifice integrity here than somewhere where it's more pristine if I had to make the tradeoff.

#8: "Hog Island and Newton Creek should be sufficiently resilient to endure the normal periodic stress events in the local environment that serve to maintain the integrity of the ecosystem."

• Mostly or strongly agree.

# V. Opportunities / Constraints - 2:40 PM

Participants are asked to list the most promising opportunities as well as potential constraints for the restoration of Hog Island and Newton Creek (see

**Opportunities\_Constraints\_HI\_Pub\_Workshop\_011007.pdf** for all results).

#### **Opportunities**

- Providing a refuge for rare plants that may be impacted by city development.
- Setting a good restoration precedent for the rest of the estuary.
- o Successful Great Lakes Legacy Act project to leverage additional dollars.
- Best opportunities to control exotic species—reed canary grass.
- City and County work together on their plans—smart growth WI legislation is an obligation to work together.
- o Dedicated local support group in the CAC made up of business, scientists, volunteersalways a champion.
- o Location of site adjacent to other recreational land will give us an educational opportunity.
- Establish riparian management plan, reforestation, buffers with restrictions and easement, phytoremediation, etc.
- o Develop public ownership of Newton Creek that would protect downstream areaswalking trail, coastal grant for conservation easement with property owners.
- Five land owners to talk to.



- Large woody cover to hog island inlet—remove some of the navigation hazard in the harbor to provide vertical cover in the inlet.
- 1860s navigation charts—two locations that don't exist anymore—coastal emergent vegetation area at the mouth of a creek, feature that looks like a channelized lagoon—think about creating that kind of habitat between Hog Island inlet with the Rice's inlet to create seiche movement.
- Migratory bird habitat that have been lost to development could be recreated—shorebird, shallow water coastal wetlands, black ducks, scaup.
- Hog Island is clean but not a natural system—leaves the door open to what we want to do.

#### **Constraints**

- Conflicting land use visions.
- Altered flow regime of creek may be difficult to fix.
- Relationship and proximity with Murphy Oil—long term.
- Watercourse and threat to habitat from oil spill.
- Terrorism in regard to facilities.
- Funding of restoration and maintenance.
- Water regulatory permitting.
- Preserve for the long term—how?
- Perception that the site is already cleaned up and therefore restored.
- What are the priorities for restoration in terms of upland, water, riparian?
- Relationships with the private landowners.

# VI. Wrap Up / Debriefing - 3:20 PM

# Jeremy Thomas, Biohabitats:

Thanks group for attending, emphasizes how important these contributions are to the planning process.

Poses the questions:1) *How could we have improved upon today?*2) *Did this workshop meet your expectations?* 

# Comments:

- Needed more discussion of target species, ecological restoration targets.
- Next meeting should have more specific info on the description of hydrologic interactions / controls on the ecology of the project site.
- A lot of the site conditions provided seems too general. For example, it would be good to provide data on exactly which species of migratory birds currently use the Hog Island habitats.
- Could have used more time for the workshop. Good to have all these people in the room need more time for networking.

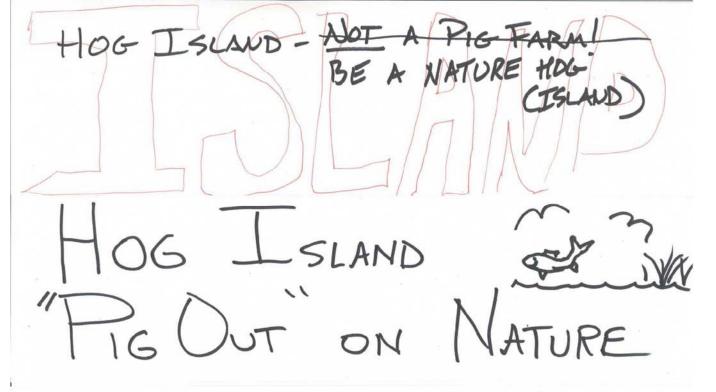


#### Jeremy Thomas, Biohabitats:

Results of workshop will be compiled and posted on a website, and made available to all participants and the general public. The input received will be integrated into a Draft Hog Island and Newton Creek Ecological Restoration Plan. This Draft Plan will be distributed to you before the next workshop, which will occur in early April. The second workshop will focus on presentation of the Draft Plan, and solicitation of direct, specific feedback about the Plan.

#### THANK YOU!!!

Hog Island Ecological Restoration Public Workshop WITC, Superior, Wisconsin							
Ec	OG SLAND	Janu	ary 10th 2007, 8:30AM - 3:30Pl	M			
	Name	Affiliation	Address	Phone No.	Email Address		
1	Elizabeth Hinchey Malloy	Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant	U.S. EPA-GLNPO 77	312-886-3451	hinchey.elizabeth@epa.gov		
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			Chicago, IL 60604				
2	Charlene Johnson	Short Elliot Hendrickson (SEH)	1409 Hammond Avenue Superior, WI 54880	715-399-3225	cjohnson@sehinc.com		
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			Ashland, WI 54806	x15			
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	Mike Bares	MPCA			mike.bares@pca.state.mn.us		
	Steve Rannenberg	Douglas Co. Brd	1313 Belknap Street		steve.rannenberg@doulascountywi.org		
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16	Dick Kamm		902 E 4th Street Superior, WI	715-394-3347			
17	Liz Lundmark	Murphy Oil	2407 Stinson Ave.	715-398-3533	liz_lundmark@murphyoilcorp.com		
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21	Marc Hershfield	MPCA	5255 S. Lake Duluth,MN	218-723-2358	marc.hershtield@state.pca.mn.us		
22	Michael K. Anderson	Concerned Citizen	1114 E. 9th Street #2 Duluth, MN	218-736-1527	singingcanoe@hotmail.com		
23	Duane Lahti	WDNR	1401 Tower Avenue, Superior, WI	715-395-6911	duane.laht@wisconsin.gov		
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25	John Robinson		Superior, WI 108 Sctdiff Ave.	715-365-8976	John.Robinson@wisconsin.gov		
26	Lindsay Hogfeldt	Short Elliot Hendrickson (SEH)	Rhindorder, WI 54501		Ihogfeldt@sehinc.com		
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32	Danielle Greene	USEPA	Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO), 77 W. Jackson, G-17J, Chicago, IL 60604	312-886-7594	green.danielle@epa.gov		



HOG ISLAND: WILDLIFE HABITAT NOT A PIG FARM!

Hog Island FROM NOTHING TO "SUPER-JOR"

WATERFRONT CORRIDOR

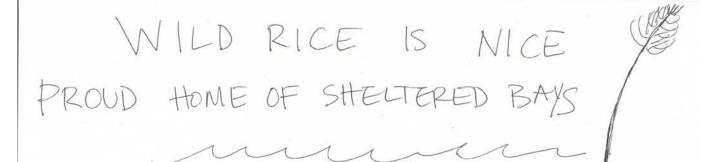
· Simple · Serene · Superior

PETROCEPECO NEWTON CREEK-THE FISH ARE HAPPY AGAIN! Hog Island: The Sandvary for Wildlife in Superior City Grandpa says: WIGGLE UPSTREAM 2 Restore the Ecological Flow Regime! CREEK NEWTON RESTORING CONNECTIONS NEWTON CREEK RESTORING VALUE

NATURE, TRAILS, Fish HOG I scand

Shere's more to DUN Shore HOG ISLAND AREA PRISTINE NATURE IN AN URBAN SETTING

An Island As Nature would Like it.



Hog Island -Urbanization in Harmony with Nature

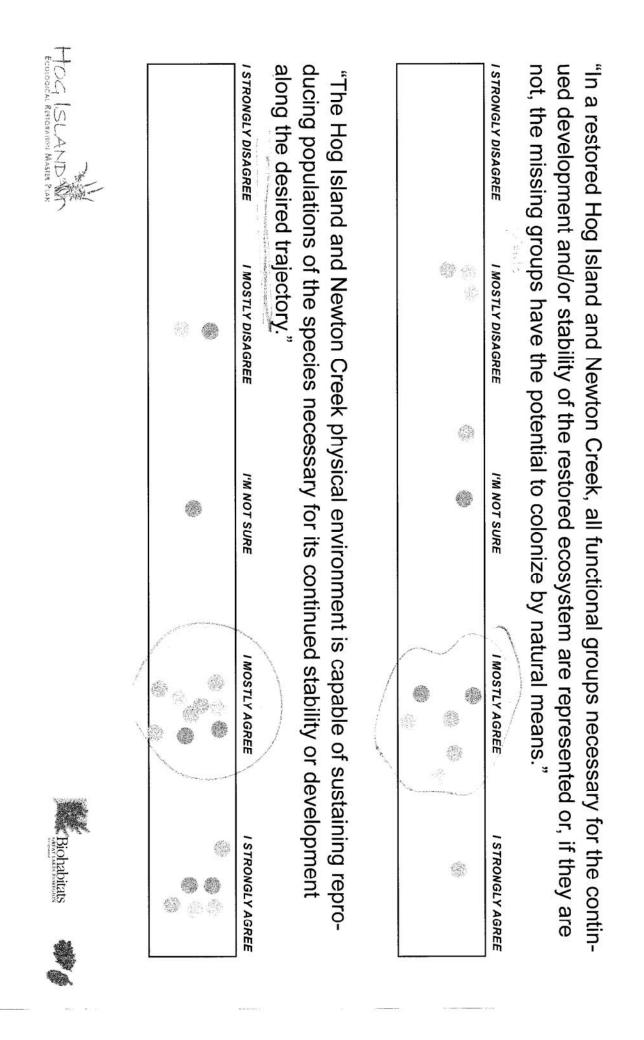
FUNCTIONAL BENEFITS FOR EVERYONE - EQUAL OPPORTUNITY NATURE! HOG ISLAND, NI.

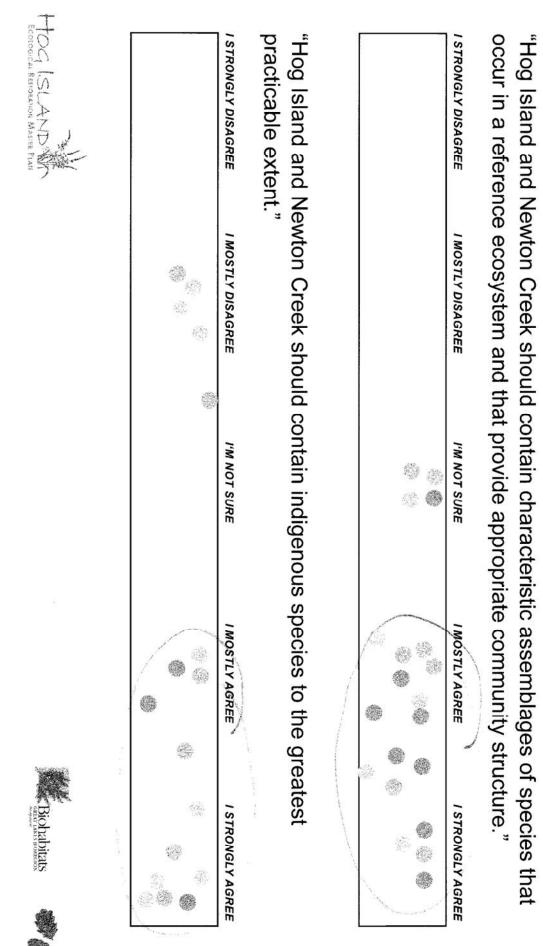
Hog Island Voted Best Stopover for Migratory Birds Bong Museum Hog Island SAFE LANDINGS BIRDS ARE HOG WILD R FOR HOG ISLAND WETLAND PROTECTION ALONG BIRD MIGRATION ROUTES WORKS! HOG IS. - A SUPERIOR GANISIN 4 SITE AMAZING MIGRATORY BIRD VIEWING HOG ISLAND, SUPERIOR WI LAHTIS LOON LANDING

HOG ISLAND SOLITUDE IN THE TWIN PORTS HOG ISLAND - BACK TO A HEALTHY NATURAL COMMUNITY Superior: This is out Home on the lake HOG ISCAND AND NEWTON CREEK PERMANENT PUBLICALLY OWNED AREA CEFT TO EVOLVE NATURALLY W/IN VRGAN AREA HOG ISLAND INLET

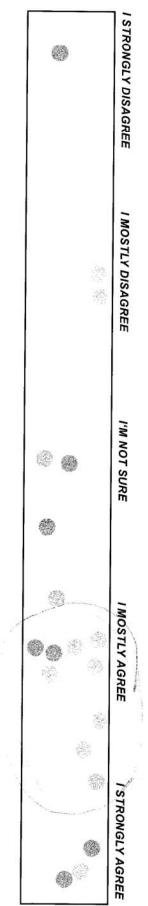
A QUIET NATURAL PLACE SCRATCH & SNIFF NATURE HOG ISLAND NATURAL AREA

Hog Island: "Standing Alone" COME VISIT THENEW The Only Office With Personal Employee Marina Slips ! Mom is this the work you do! HOG ISLAND Long-term Sustainable Area for not only my kids but my kids kids .... A Place which is safe for families to chigo-limited activities- walking picnics - fishing HOG ISLAND INLET FULLY FUNCTIONAL "SHALLOW BAY WITH GMITED PUBLIC ACCESS

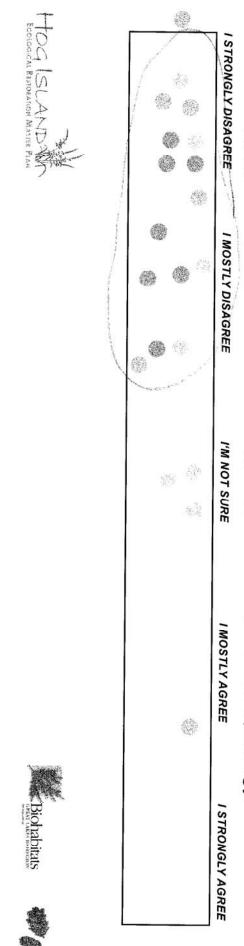


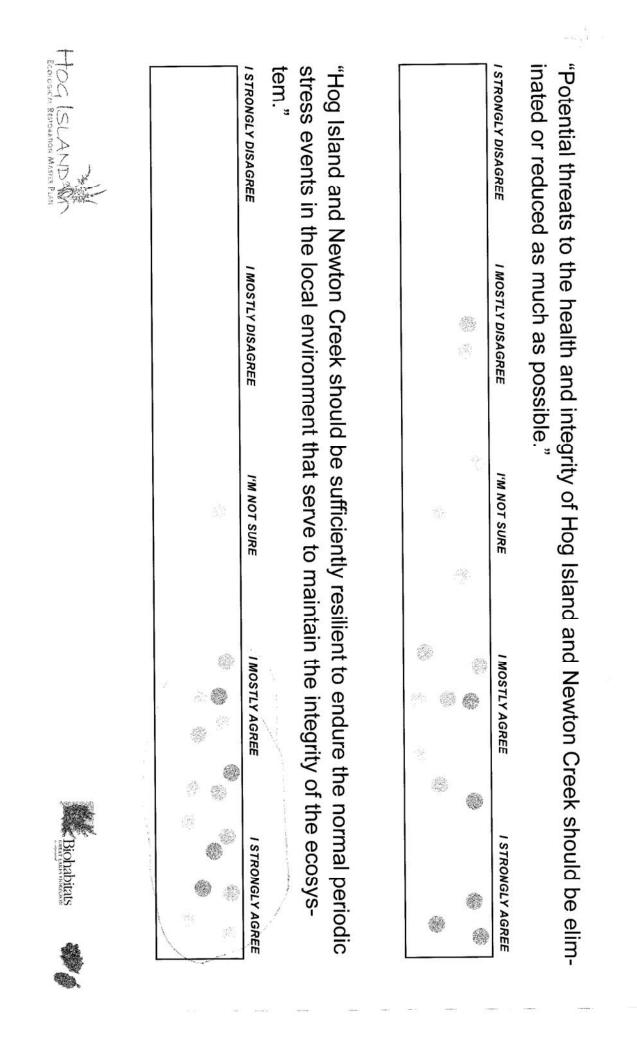


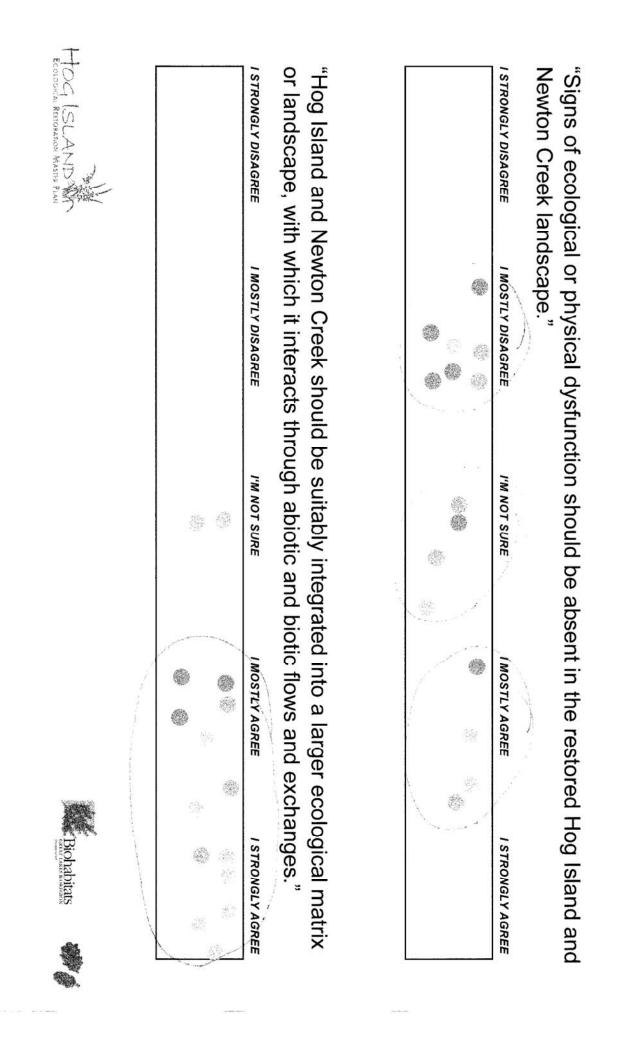
"Hog Island and Newton Creek should be self-sustaining to the same degree as the referstored ecosystem may evolve as environmental conditions change." conditions. As in any intact ecosystem, the species composition and other attributes of a reence ecosystem, and have the potential to persist indefinitely under existing environmental

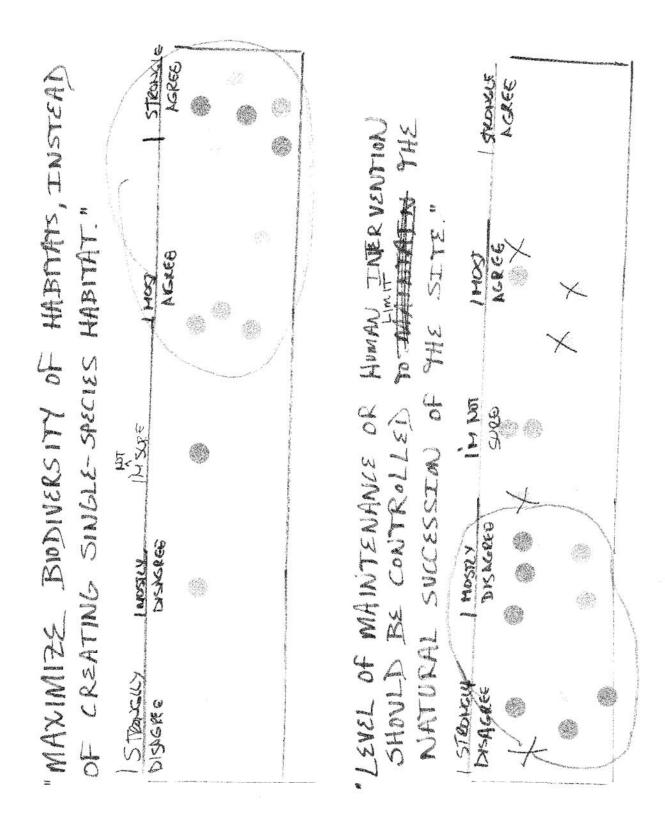


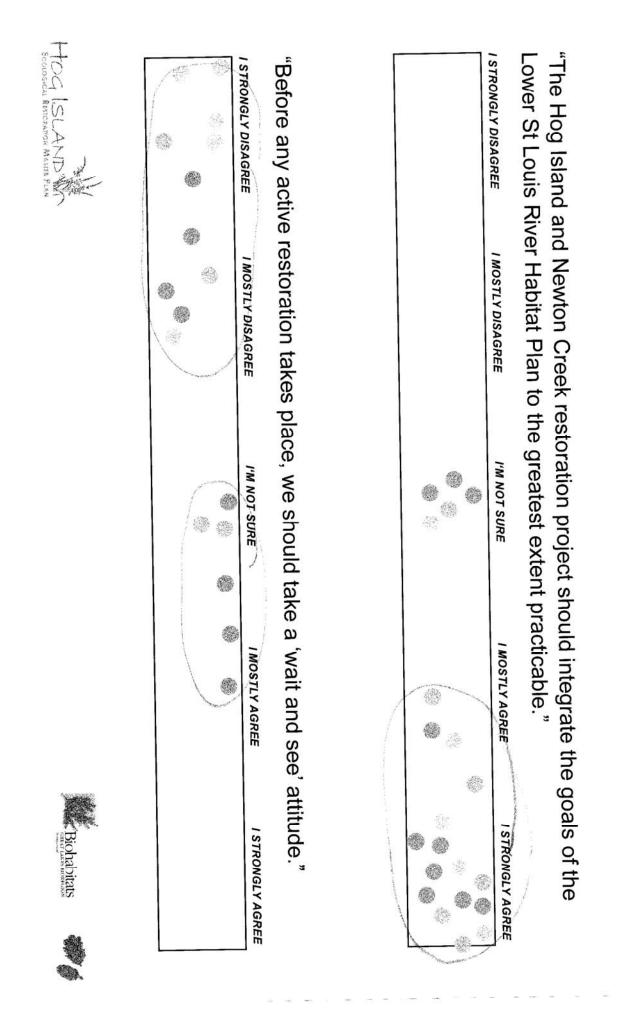
"Newton Creek should be restored to its original, pre-development morphology."

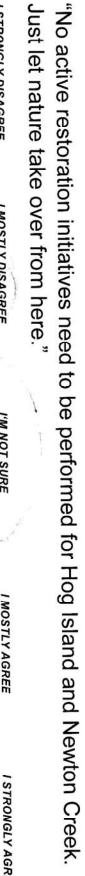


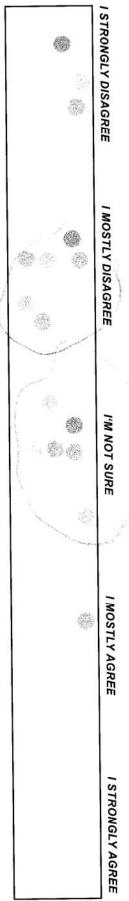










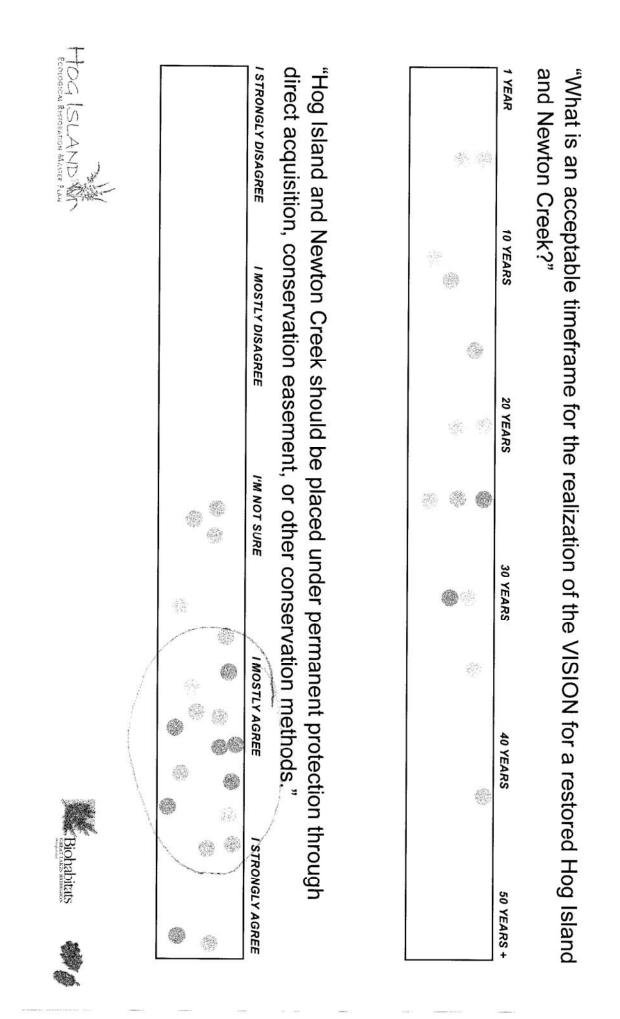


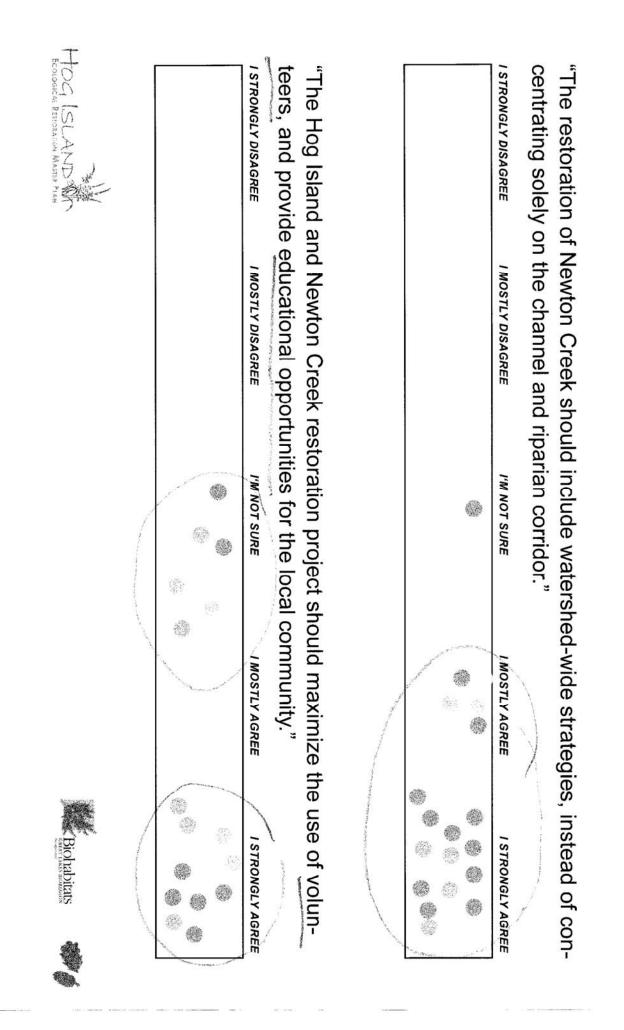
during and after the restoration process." "Recreation and human access to Hog Island and Newton Creek should be maximized

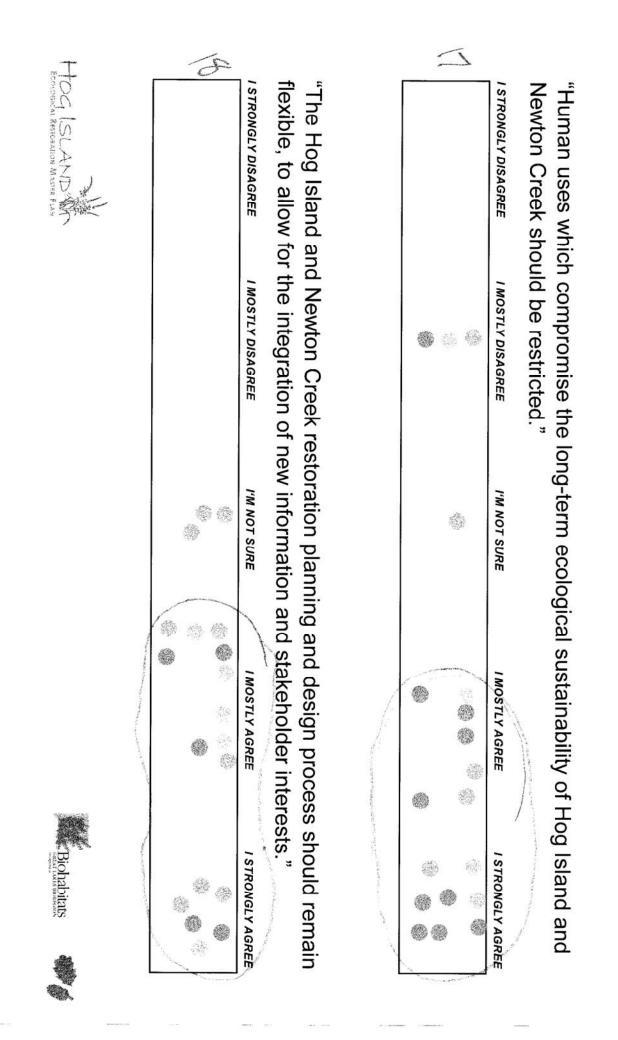
•	I STRONGLY DISAGREE
	I MOSTLY DISAGREE
•	I'M NOT SURE
Nor Belgroud, Dudy	I MOSTLY AGREE
	I STRONGLY AGREE











#### HOG ISLAND PUBLIC WORKSHOP 01/10/07 - OPPORTUNITIES

#### List the most promising opportunities for the restoration of Hog Island (HI) and Newton Creek (NC)

Monitor the natural restoration of HI and NC by	developing a project to analyze plant, macroinvertibrate, fish and animal
species after remediation of the site has been	
A chance to test ideas on how to restore/enhar	nce human impacted ecosystems.
FUNDING	
Leverage GLA funding for additional projects.	
Feds desire for success and willingness to inve	st resources.
Feature success of GL Legacy Act Project and	I restoration model to leverage for fund for GL clean-up.
Purchase conservation easements. Purchase I	and along NC.
IMPLEMENTATION FOR OTHER AOC	
The process of developing and implementing a	plan has promise for use on other areas w/in the AOC.
Setting a good ecological precedent for future	estuary restoration projects. Success here can lead to many other
success within and outside of the SLR estuary.	This would strengthen the overall ecosystem.
Application to entire harbor.	
A lot of enthusiasm for being the 1st AOC to tr	y a project like this.
	ON FOR SPECIFIC RESTORATION TECHNIQUES
Need to increase emergent vegetation should	earn to do it in the estuary at this site.
Need to restore riparian corridors and should le	earn from this site.
Why and what is the remediation taking place.	Is it for aesthetics, microbes, plants, wildlife/fish, or humans?
Should not be the end, but rather the beginning	
	rosion. Reforestation-establish adequate buffer w/ restrictions/easements
establish shade/trees for DO levels. Use phyto	remediation to address areas not remediate. Increase protection status of
	on". Establish wetlands of priority. Use sieche to hydrate atoll.
INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL	
Attempt control/over exotics- buckthorn.	
The island is probably as good as can be expe	cted and should be left alone except to remove noxious weeds.
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT/PROTECTION	
Low impact habitat enhancement-natural struc	tures such as logs and rock.
Plant some plants and let it be.	
	s been lost due to development can be enhanced/created/restored at this
	bry feeding and nesting sites to benefit species such as povers, and
shallow water coastal wetland to benefit specie	
Remove fish barriers.	·
	and waterfowl on the island.
A refuge- stop over-nesting site for shorebirds	
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A refuge- stop over-nesting site for shorebirds Improve environmental functions for wildlife & p that may be impacted by development elsewho	plant habitat integrity. Refuge for local and threatened/endangered plants
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#### HOG ISLAND PUBLIC WORKSHOP 01/10/07 - OPPORTUNITIES

#### List the most promising opportunities for the restoration of Hog Island (HI) and Newton Creek (NC)

Synergistic effect of multi-agency input and financial support and local groups and individuals.

Such a dedicated group of people from city, county, state, federal and private groups.

HI & NC have a dedicated local support group - the St. Louis River Citizen Action Committee... made up of professional resource managers/scientists/local citizerns/business people.

#### EDUCATION/AWARENESS

Education opportunities because of its urban location.

School programs - "adopt a stream".

Awareness in the community of the importance of ecological succession/remediation. Education.

Improve social functions: stormwater management, water quality, floodwater mngt, research, cultural, educational, recreational, aesthetic functions.

May give future volunteers a greater since of environmental stewardship.

#### LIMIT HUMAN USE

Don't make it a park because kids will have parties and the police would have a hard time.

Limit human extent and ensure ecological habitat.

I suggest that restoration be done first for human health and aesthetics of the natural area. Plants and animals can be the major beneficiaries of the process. Humans can benefit from the cleaner environment and the natural beauty produced. The other animals and plants can have a greater benefit by having a new niche to exist in. This description

It should be easier to limit access during restoration and may also provide good habitat since it isn't being trampled. It already has some important native/threatened species present.

#### **FUTURE ENJOYMENT**

Continue to move from remediation to restoration process leaving something for the future to enjoy.

It demonstrates to people that urbanization/industrialization can co-habit an area when properly managed.

The location of this site within the city, adjacent to other recreational land, will highlight the demonstrative and educational opportunities this project can have as an impact to local citizens, visitors and for similar urban watersheds

Highly visible location along USH2/52 and hiking trail corridor.

Energize the community toward a positive focus.

Organize a trail and clean-up and create awareness of the beauty of the area.

If limited public uses, opportunity for passive recreational use.

NC floodplain and walking trail.

MINIMIZE POLLUTION IMPACTS

Installation of upland BMPs to minimize non-point source and point source runoff impacts.

HI and NC are now deemed clean and neither are natural systems. In a sense we can't go wrong.

We have the opportunity now to protect the area from pop growth and development probably one of the best areas to escape pop growth and its effects.

# HOG ISLAND PUBLIC WORKSHOP 01/10/07 - CONSTRAINTS

List the constraints to the restoration of Hog Island (HI) and Newton Creek (NC)
--

INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL
Invasive species especially aquatics (i.e. Zebra mussels, etc.)
The existence of reed canary grass in the upper watershed.
STAKEHOLDERS
Economics - political pressure to develop the area.
Identify the responsible agency or party (County, City, State, etc.) because of multiple arenas/management in the area.
Opposition by larger economic interests and politicians.
Multiple property ownership in the area (developers, railroad industry, industry owners, private landowners etc.)
Integrating and differentiating the visions of stakeholders for Hog Island and Newton Creek (i.e. level of public access
and facilities desired by different stakeholders).
Making sure everyone has a voice.
Defining a balance between restoration goals and business development of planners and stakeholders.
SURROUNDING INFLUENCES / POTENTIAL THREATS
Water movement from the creek, to the Bay, to the harbor is not stagnant.
A future spill from the refinery destroying all restoration progress.
Railroad located on shore side.
Newton Creek has lost virtually all of its original hydrologic characteristics because it is dependent on refinery discharge.
Urban and industrial encroachment.
Heavy development around watershed limiting control of runoff and establishment of protective buffers.
The small area may limit resiliency for the ecosystem should environmental challenges occur.
TIME / MONEY
Where will time and money come from to release or remove spill containments structures?
Funding short falls and then relying on dedicated volunteers.
Funding the project for long term maintenance.
Ensuring long term sustainability.
Attaining permits.
Funding from already tight local budgets.
Long-term maintenance issues (development pressures in watershed, physical maintenance, recreational structures,
EDUCATION / OUTREACH
Changing the values of the community to understand the significance of natural resources.
Getting community involvement and understanding of the importance of the restoration project and how it effects them
Educating County and City decision-makers.
The need to educate on the idea of a self-sustaining ecosystem.
Finding a way to educate on the benefits of this project because of previous ambivalence of the community at large of
other blighted/brownfield areas in Superior and the Harbor.
ABILITY TO GAIN SUPPORT
Need a clear goal addressing the primary concerns.
Have achievable goals which optimize success so additional restoration opportunities will be accepted in the future.
Overcoming the assumption that the site is already cleaned up.
Finding a means to gain the support of political leaders to advocate for restoration.
MONITORING / ASSESSMENT
Developing/ agreeing on a measures of success.
Assess the feasibility to repair the impaired flow regime of Newton Creek in which riparian and aquatic organisms
communities cannot currently thrive.





# Hog Island Ecological Restoration Project Public Workshop #2 May 1, 2007 – 3:00PM to 6:00PM Bong Museum, Superior, WI

# **MEETING MINUTES**

Workshop facilitated by Jeremy Thomas, Keith Bowers, and Ivette Bolender of Biohabitats, Inc.

# I. Introduction Section – 3:00PM – 3:30PM

#### Jeremy Thomas, Biohabitats:

Welcomes workshop participants back – and thanks them for attending. Requests that workshop attendees give their name, their affiliation, and their reason for attending / interest in the project site (see attendance sheet - *HI\_PubWorkshop2\_Attendance\_050107.pdf*).

Overview of the afternoon:

- Report back on Workshop No. 1
- Present Vision and Guiding Principles
- Present Draft Ecological Restoration Master Plan
- o Get Feedback!

Workshop comments and information will be used to guide the development of the Master Plan to a Final Draft.

What we hope to accomplish:

- An opportunity to present and explain the Draft Plan to all stakeholders.
- Feedback from you.
- Ask / answer questions about the Plan.
- Make collective decisions about priorities and feasibility.
- o Make collective decisions about an implementation framework.

Schedule for Plan completion:

- Comments to the Draft Plan due to Biohabitats by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007.
- Final Plan due on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007.

# Karen Rodriguez, USEPA:

- Look critically at the Draft Plan what can you do at this site that will help to delist the habitat-related BUIs?
- Decide on a process for implementation. How will stakeholders adopt the Plan?
- There is the opportunity to act quickly USEPA has found the funding to implement at least 2 actions in the Draft Plan.
- 5 agencies have put money together for restoration actions like those detailed in the Draft Plan, including NOAA and the USFWS
- CDs with the Draft Plan are available for workshop participants.





# II. Vision and Guiding Principles – 3:30PM – 4:00PM

Jeremy Thomas of Biohabitats presents a summary of the Jan 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Public Workshop, and the development of the project vision and guiding principles (see *HogIsland\_2ndWorkshop\_050107\_Part1.pdf* for a full copy of the presentation).

Workshop participants' comments:

Vision Statement:

- Surprised by the phrase "diverse and self-sustaining." Existing condition of site is mutually exclusive of diversity and self-sustaining

- Diversity will require management.

*Discussion:* The Master Plan will provide for more diversity than the currently existing state.

Other comments:

- What about performance standards for restoration?

Discussion: Included in Draft Plan.

- Management strategies are necessary as well as restoration strategies.

Discussion: Management strategies are also included in the Draft Plan.

- Purple loose strife/reed canary grass – concern about how hard it is going to be to control these invasives!!

- Why don't we just ask landowner permission to restore their properties? Is land conservation really necessary?

*Discussion:* Restoration actions need to be cost effective to secure for future conservation and success of the ecosystem.

- Target ecosystem vs. reference ecosystem (targets for restoration).

*Discussion:* Targets and benchmarks are included for each Action. We are not restoring to pre-settlement conditions – according to the guiding principles.





# III. The Draft Ecological Restoration Master Plan – 4:00PM – 5:45PM

Jeremy Thomas of Biohabitats presents the Draft Goals, Objectives, and Actions in the Draft Master Planning document (see *HogIsland\_2ndWorkshop\_050107\_Actions.pdf* for a full copy of the presentation).

Dialogue between workshop participants:

#### **Goal A: Water and Sediment Quality**

Comment: What is the problem with present flow regime at Newton Creek?

Discussion: The existing flows are impairing habitat at Newton Creek.

*Comment:* Newton Creek has just been remediated, how can you really tell what the habitat value is when it hasn't had adequate time to recover?

*Discussion:* According to research and literature homogenous flows are expected to suppress biodiversity in aquatic and riparian systems.

#### Other comments:

- Limitation of the flow releases from Murphy Oil facility – current conditions are not ecologically-optimal.

- Increased fluctuation in flows in the basin will benefit Newton Creek
- Newton Creek is spring fed.

- Master Plan has recommendations to increase ecosystem viability. The stakeholders would have to make decisions. This project has big opportunities vs. challenges.

Comment: Has a flow meter been used at the creeks discussed?

*Discussion:* Yes, flow data and rain events (rainfall for fall and winter) are available.

Comment: Why stormwater is not included?

Discussion: It is under different objective – Objective A2.

*Comment:* The watershed is 10% impervious. There is concern about quality of stormwater. The local geology of clay soils might increase the imperviousness at 80%.

Comment: City of Superior staff from the Waste Water Division will review the Master Plan





*Comment:* Murphy Oil already has a spill plan and a pollution prevention plan.

*Comment:* Objective A3 – list other sources that contribute to water and sediment quality.

*Comment:* Replace text - "Reduce the threat" of contamination. Use alternative language such as "continue to protect" or "minimize the threat".

*Comment:* For phytoremediation, what type of trees would be appropriate?

*Discussion:* Poplar trees, potentially others. Depends on the remediation objectives.

Other Comments:

- Geese are an issue - eating newly installed plantings/vegetation

- Citizens need to be involved to be educated and understand the process.

#### **Goal B: Ecosystem Conservation and Protection**

*Comment:* GIS data needs updated for the new land acquisition (property purchases / Murphy Oil parcels).

Comment: Where is conservation in the Master Planning process?

*Discussion:* A phasing plan is included in the Master Plan. Conservation actions are the first things that must occur in this process.

*Comment*: No restoration would be completed on sites that aren't protected by an established conservation easement or other land conservation mechanism.

#### **Goal C: Ecosystem Restoration**

Invasive species discussion:

*Comment:* C1) Instead of using the word "eradicate" invasive species, use alternative wording such as "suppress", or "manage" invasive species.

Other comments:

- Phragmites  $\rightarrow$  discussion of exotic vs. native varieties in the region. Gary Walton describes how to distinguish between native vs. exotic.





- Difficulty of controlling reed canary grass. Ideas of removing about 6" to 12" of soil and treat it with roundup. Also, the planting of native plants is a necessary part of invasive species management.

#### Stream daylighting discussion:

Comment: What is stream daylighting?

*Discussion:* Stream daylighting involves the restoration of stream channels which are currently in pipes to unconfined, natural channels. This includes the removal of culverts.

#### Other Comments:

- Fish migration inside culverts/pipes - light vs. darkness influences fish passage.

- Master Plan recommends regrading areas of Newton Creek to restore in- channel, floodplain, and riparian habitats. No regrading of the inlet area is proposed.

#### Native planting discussion:

Comment: Wild rice restoration is regulated by WDNR - requires WDNR approval.

#### Other Comments:

- Boat debris and other floatable debris poses a threat to new plantings of wild rice in the inlet. These would have to be would be removed as part of ongoing operation of maintenance procedures.

- The State of Minnesota is not currently supporting the planting of this vegetation type.

#### Piping plover habitat discussion:

*Comment:* Substitute the restoration target of "shorebirds" instead of "piping plover" for C5:1

#### Other Comments:

- Three (3) other locations for piping plover habitat were attempted unsuccessfully.

- Concerns about impacts to the piping plover habitat from pets (i.e, dogs) and summer users of the island.

- City wants to use Ogdensburg pier for industrial uses.
- Existing industrial sites protect development of "new" industrial land.





#### **Goal D: Recreation, Stewardship, Education**

Comment: Questions on trail materials and ADA compliance?

Discussion: Not factored into Plan in the current Draft. Will have to revisit that.

Other Comments:

- Recreation components conflict between walking dogs versus habitat for birds.
- Look vs. touch public experience.
- Viewing decks and interpretive signage (well received by the City).
- Water trails expansion in the area kayaking opportunities around the island are great.

#### **General Discussion**

#### Jeremy Thomas, Biohabitats:

What did we miss? Do you have any other ideas?

Going back and discussing Goal B – Action item B2:

- Appreciate the thoughtful nature of the Plan.

- Tons of property may be too hard for city to conserve (BNSF and Ogdensburg pier)

- No prioritization of the land conservation actions is included in the Draft Plan. Maybe should be added for next iteration.

- Regional connectivity between the project site and other open spaces in the City of Superior is driving a lot of the upland conservation actions.

- There is a need to balance City Superior needs vs. ecological buffer width requirements.
- Buffer widths based on ecological function, for example: 100 feet for bird and wildlife habitat.
- Match buffer with land lots.
- We need to find the instances where industry objectives meet ecological objectives.
- There is a balancing act between delisting and economic expansion.

- Economic development can also occur as a result of ecological restoration, generating jobs, increasing tourism and quality of life.





- Habitat Targets for Wisconsin and Minnesota states currently in progress and is due in 2008.

Master Plan Goals Discussion:

- Delisting elements – need to make the connections between the Master Plan and the delisting process.

- Oswego Bay, New York is the first AOC to be delisted from the USA. The de-listing process was tough. The International Joint Commission (IJC) would be the ultimate agency for the AOC delisting process and final approval.

- The St. Louis River AOC is a big site. How does Hog Island contribute to the de-listing process?

- Missing piece: trajectory to a restored ecosystem.

*Comment:* Doing nothing can be an option – let natural succession occur.

Discussion: Group agreed on active restoration in the first workshop.

- Small section of community might want to know – what are you doing with our tax dollars?

- City of Superior has ADA requirements for all trails.

- Funding sources are interested and liked the Draft Master Plan.

# Final direction from Biohabitats:

- Please read the document!
- We will be working on prioritization and refining the Plan.
- We are open to your ideas please continue to give us your comments and suggestions.

"Thank you!"



#### Hog Island Ecological Restoration Public Workshop No. 2

Bong Museum, Superior, Wisconsin May 1st 2007, 3:00PM - 6:00PM

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION MASTER PLAN		iviay 15(2007, 3.00Fivi - C		
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#### Hog Island Ecological Restoration Public Workshop No. 2 Bong Museum, Superior, Wisconsin

May 1st 2007, 3:00PM - 6:00PM

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Name	Affiliation	Address	Phone No.	Email Address
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# Welcome and introductions

Jeremy Thomas

• "Thank you" to those who provided comments to the Draft Master Plan.

# Overview of goals and proposed agenda

Amelia Greiner

- All participants asked to state their name, affiliation, and what they hope to get out of the meeting today.
- *Stakeholder comment*: Concerns from stakeholders that all the cards are on the table.
- *Stakeholder comment*: If we don't know what is standing in the way (in terms of corporate expansion and other obstacles to implementation) it doesn't make sense to go further.
- Decide to go with agenda as is and evaluate utility of breakout session.

# **Background and rationale for Hog Island efforts and 3<sup>rd</sup> Public Workshop** *Karen Rodriguez*

Karen Kodriguez

- This meeting wasn't anticipated in the original scope of work, but was added to address stakeholder concerns about not having enough input into the Draft Master Plan.
- Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) the three that we are concerned about are:
  - o degradation of fishing and wildlife populations,
  - o degradation of benthos,
  - the loss of fish and wildlife habitat.
- What this Master Plan is a blueprint with the following elements:
  - Zero in on the sites that caused the habitat impairments.
  - Set habitat targets based on previous work, for example, piping plover, industrially influenced bays, clay-influenced tributaries, coastal wetlands, and upland forest communities.
  - For each site specify ecological and cultural description; reference/target ecosystem; schedules and costs for site preparation, implementation, post implementation; and performance standards.
- Next steps:

- Landowner approval.
- Community adoption.
- Implement actions.
- Ready to delist habitat-related BUIs when: sources that caused the impairments are controlled, blueprint sites are restored, and sites are on a trajectory to recovery.
- Why does this matter?
  - For the AOC it could count toward delisting.
  - For Superior and the region, improvement in the natural resource amenity.
- EPA's role:
  - Remediation to restoration.
  - o Blueprint development.
  - Funding for actions.
- Themes from community input into the Draft Master Plan:
  - Need more time for input.
  - Economy versus ecology.
  - Newton Creek's contribution to the health of the inlet and the fishery.
  - Targets for the AOC won't necessarily work here—if not here then where?
- Community's decision point
  - If the Master Plan is not adopted, then you will have to look elsewhere to find sites that will contribute to delisting and EPA will end its participation in Hog Island and Newton Creek.
  - If the Master Plan is adopted at least in part, EPA will help find funding for the actions.
- Stakeholder concerns over whether or not their input into the Master Plan will make any difference and whether landowners know enough about the Master Plan.
- Response that it is a landowner decision. But it is also a community decision. The landowners present state that they have been involved in the process.

# Douglas County's involvement and proposed stewardship for Master Plan

Christine Ostern

- Hog Island workgroup mission statement: will define the desired end state of the Hog Island site and seek funding restoration and support.
- Want to talk about some of controversial items: don't want to confuse this with a Murphy Oil plan or a site review.
- Master Plan won't be done once it is handed over from Biohabitats.

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**US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT** 

- It has been a help to get something down and something to look at and comment on.
- *Stakeholder comment*: giving everybody false hope to think that the plan we are working on today is a rough draft. I'd like to think that what we are putting here together collectively is pretty close to what people want.
- *Stakeholder comment*: The decision makers are the elected officials, not the subject matter experts who are in the room. The decision makers are relying on the subject matter experts to give them a plan to digest. It would be unrealistic to expect the mayor, the council, etc...to become sufficiently astute to understand the environmental, ecological, economic aspects of this plan.
- *Stakeholder comment*: Without a plan will get no decision from them will not get a scintilla of feedback.
- *Stakeholder comment*: Not necessarily what DNR wants, fish and wildlife, Murphy Oil but what we all can accept. It's a nexus.
- Next step is to get elected officials information.

# Discussion of new maps and protection sites

Jeremy Thomas

- Concerns in Goal B that there wasn't a distinction between absolutely necessary areas for land protection and secondary sites for land protection. New maps have been made that present land protection priorities sites necessary for restoration actions to occur vs. other sites that would be beneficial to preserve as undeveloped lands to maintain ecological connectivity and high quality habitats.
- Liz Lundmark highlights Murphy Oil expansion:
  - Have purchased all the county land between refinery and the 11<sup>th</sup> street. Some private properties have been purchased as well.
  - \$6 billion project expansion. Have to find a partner. Nothing guarantees that this will happen.
  - If we expand, effluent discharge from the refinery would likely change locations.
  - o Newton Creek could cease to exist or there could be much more effluent.
  - Have provided habitat plan to our environmental consultant. Huge number of permits and processes.
  - o Jeremy: how much would Murphy oil consider input from this group?

- *Liz*: I imagine this would get a lot of consideration but we're just not there yet. We'll be having public meetings. We want to do this right.
- *Stakeholder comment*: 5 years ago had a contentious meeting that we did or did not need to clean up the creek. This meeting today is a good thing. Can have both economic growth and economic protection.

#### Break

#### **Review comments to Draft Master Plan (themes listed in the agenda)**

Jeremy Thomas

• *Stakeholder comment*: From what I've heard, don't try to cram habitat for everything into every site. Land conservation objectives here may not get a whole lot of benefit. May not have room to do all these actions.

#### **Goal evaluations**

#### Amelia Greiner

• Decide to discuss each goal as a whole group instead of breakout sessions.

# Goal D:

- Was it considered that aesthetics be considered as recreation?
- o Objective D1:
  - Can do restoration with views and bird watching.
  - Merits to "showing off" a restoration project.
  - Access without ecosystem destruction.
  - Trail not close to the Murphy Facility for security reasons.
  - Trail on upper Newton Creek shouldn't be there.
  - Who's going to maintain or see these trails?
  - Informational signage is good.
  - Potential for using Ogdensburg pier as a bird watching platform?
  - *Kris Benson, Enbridge*: Yes, that is a possibility.
  - "Ecotourism"
  - We have to be aware that human use will impact communities on Hog Island.
  - Priority should be habitat restoration recreation should be down the road. Maintenance a necessary thing.
  - Change to: "Create passive recreational opportunities compatible with ecosystem function and landowner concerns."

o Objective D2:

- Murphy Oil has its own stewardship and educational campaign.
- Already satisfied by Murphy Oil and CAC stewardship actions.

- Tie Murphy and UW extension together (talk to Dennis Pratt about this).
- Think about augmenting existing stewardship and educational activities beyond Newton Creek and Hog Island – tie into other, larger groups. Aggregate into larger groups according to subwatershed.
- Ask Liz Lundmark if their Newton Creek program could also include Hog Island.
- City has concerns about the recreation component.

#### Goal A:

- o Objective A1)
  - The flow in Newton Creek is determined by the outflow from Murphy Oil. I don't know that it makes a lot of sense to talk about restoring ecological flows.
  - Murphy wouldn't be able to accommodate this.
  - WDNR has a concern about what an ecological flows means. If it is to release sufficient water quantities to move the banks or change the flow of the course, resuspension can occur. We want to identify where those areas are. We would oppose those efforts to create flood flows.
  - If we go to a natural stream, it will be drier.
  - Determining ecologically-optimal flow can be difficult and long process. Lot of work, minimal benefit, may be resuspending flows. I recommend low priority or dismissal.
  - Murphy is probably 95% of the flow.
  - Historic reports of fishing in Newton Creek.
- o Objective A2)
  - Ties directly to a BUI excessive nutrient loading. Reports of nutrient loading. Tie directly to storm water outfalls.
  - City still developing map of storm water outfalls.
  - Work with DOT for future road construction and opportunities.
  - Majority support this action.
  - Maintain flows that do not exceed bankfull flows.
- o Objective A3)
  - Murphy Oil heavily regulated with spillage plans. Worst case scenarios. Not necessary.
  - We can be assured that there are sufficient measures in place.
  - We should keep the Objective there but change the action to say that the existing recommendations of Murphy and Enbridge are in place and active.
  - Make sure we are monitoring.
  - Change "reduce" to "manage."
  - Look at the intake of water in the Lake relative to the risk of contamination.
  - Don't need a risk assessment already in place.

- o Objective A4)
  - Objective should be to determine what we have first, and then determine ways to remediate. We may want to also use more traditional remediation techniques. Should not be targeted at one technique.
  - Sediment issues have been dealt with. The issue is Segments B-K floodplain soils. We have met those goals. There are other areas to spend those resources.
  - Post-remediation monitoring show that stream is improving and that water quality and sed. sampling are meeting stated goals – not meeting chronic toxicity in benthic organisms.
  - Remove Action 1.

# Goal B:

- o Objective B1)
  - *Christine Ostern*: We have a proposal to the land development committee to protect county lands along creek. Already underway.
  - Change to "public" areas through "designation".
  - City of Superior has expressed concerns about putting City lands in the watershed into permanent easement.
- o Objective B2)
  - Buffer around Murphy lands would be good.
  - Place privately held identified "restoration" areas and sensitive habitats into permanent protection.
  - Maybe actions should be to "encourage" private landowners to put their properties into protection.
  - Target key areas to put into conservation.
  - Include "buffer" terminology.
  - Actions 1-3: "determine protection options" for all private properties including Ogdensburg Pier and BNSF railroad.
  - Ongoing strategic planning by City of Superior to determine what to do with these properties.
  - WDNR would not be interested in designating for conservation if it is designated for commercial expansion.
  - If railroad is acquired, does this cut off the possibility of this becoming an active pier? Probably so.

\*\* Potential to NOT include land protection maps with Goal B!

# Goal C:

- o Objective C1)
  - Change "eradicate" to "control."
  - Change to "establish a vegetation management plan" for these areas.

- o Objective C2)
  - Perhaps to do some fishing we would need a fishing pier along the shoreline. We would like to include a place to fish (include in Goal D?)
  - You can pan in compatibility of other Objectives. Not mutually exclusive.
  - Lift station is not replicable. Should include that as an exclusion.
  - City is not opposed to it, but does not have money available to replace culverts.
  - The Great Lakes Watershed Restoration Grant program has funded culvert replacement.
- Objective C3)
  - Wild Rice is picky. You have to meet habitat requirements for wild rice.
     Wild rice can at best tolerate 4.5' of depth not to 6'. You are looking at 2.5 3.5' for a target. You also need to look at the organic content of the substrate. Also need to look at how much seiche is there? Not areas of direct seiche.
  - Doesn't the habitat plan have places for wild rice? Yes further up the estuary. BUT it would be nice to do this here.
  - Dennis Pratt: one of the ideas we have been thinking is the idea that "floating logs" have created bog features. One of the ideas was to use floating logs or remnant piling structures (NO CREOSOTE) to extend the landward buffer outward.
  - For breaching the isthmus would require continual maintenance. Any attempt at breaching would be short term at best.
  - Maybe we should add a side by side comparison.
  - Action 2: change "superior shoreline" to "bay" shoreline.
- Objective C4)
  - Potential for zebra mussels if we put hard structures in the embayment.
  - Creates an attractive area for fish, then fisherman, then fisherman remove the fish.
  - Still think the benefits of vertical habitat structure would be valuable.
  - "Quahog" is confirmed in the harbor (Jeff Gunderson Sea Grant).
- o Objective C5)
  - Add "nesting" to "foraging". Expand to include "shorebirds.".
  - Include interpretive signage.
- Objective C6)
  - Include a communication piece in this.

# Thank you and goodbye!

• Please get us any other comments you may have about the Draft Master Plan, the planning process, or this workshop in writing by August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007.

LIST OF WOR	(SHOP PAR	<b>TICIPANTS</b>
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LIST OF WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS Hog Island Ecological Restoration Public Workshop No. 3 Bong Museum, Superior, Wisconsin July 12 2007, 8:30AM - Noon							
July 12 2007, 8:30AM - Noon							
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Fred Strand	WDNR						

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#### LIST OF WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Hog Island Ecological Restoration Public Workshop No. 3

Bong Museum, Superior, Wisconsin

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION MASTER PLAN July 12 2007, 8:30AM - Noon					
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#### LIST OF WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Hog Island Ecological Restoration Public Workshop No. 3

Bong Museum, Superior, Wisconsin July 12 2007, 8:30AM - Noon

Ecological Restoantion Master Plan JULY 12 2007, 8:30AIVI - INOOTI					
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