

Legislative Report- Feb 22, 2020
R Krogman

Legislative Breakfast:

Preparations underway for the State of Our Waters Legislative Breakfast at the Massachusetts State House for March 31, 2020. Don Williams and I have submitted an excel sheet with successes achieved by HPWA. Other organizations involved in the breakfast will also be submitting information for a final listing.

HPWA is a sponsor of the breakfast. As a result, we will be presenting a brief PowerPoint about HPWA and which issues are most important to us. Each sponsoring association has this opportunity. A copy of the HPWA Stewardship Guide and Herring cartoon will be included in the packets left with legislators.

After presentations, participating association members will visit with legislators. In the past, groups were formed at the breakfast meeting. This year, HPWA members will go as a group to meet anyone we feel is important to our issues. We will need to make our own appointments with legislators or staff. Our Representative is Mathew Muratore. Our Senate seat is open at this point. We may want to consider meeting with Senator Anne Gobi and/or Rep. William Smitty Pignatelli who are the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Environmental Natural Resources & Agriculture. Rep James Arciero is sponsoring a bill on wetland ordinances and by-laws. He may also be an interesting candidate for a visit.

Other Activities:

HB 326

John Foye requested a status on HB 326 regarding tax filings for small public charities. I contacted the office of the sponsor Rep. Alice Hanlon Peisch. It was suggested we write a letter of support to our local representatives and to Rep. Tackey Chan. Rep. Peisch's Legislative Director Mollie Ceconi is happy to talk to us as well. I am working on a draft of a letter. Here is the text of this short bill.

An Act relative to the filing of annual returns by small public charities. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows: Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the office of the attorney general shall adopt regulations to align state requirements regarding the filing of annual returns for charitable organizations with federal internal revenue service rules and regulations for small tax-exempt organizations so that charitable organizations with gross receipts normally \$50,000 or less will no longer be required to file a federal form 990-EZ with their annual report to the attorney general.

Meeting of Sustainable Plymouth

I am planning to attend the March 16 meeting on issues including clean water. The meeting will be at 158 Center Hill Rd., Plymouth from 6:30-8:00 PM, if anyone else would like to attend.

Dorie Stolley emailed information about a new initiative by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Here is an overview of the activities from the MassDEP website.

MassDEP is convening a stormwater Advisory Committee (AC) in preparation for updating the Massachusetts Stormwater Handbook and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) stormwater regulations (310 CMR 10.05(6)). MassDEP is undertaking these updates as part of its mission to protect wetland and water resources of the Commonwealth. The Advisory Committee will focus on two topics:

- ***Aligning the WPA Stormwater Management Standards with Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit Post-Construction Stormwater Rules***

MassDEP is developing measures that will more closely align the WPA stormwater management standards in wetlands areas with MS4 General Permit stormwater rules. These measures are expected to provide consistency between federal and state regulations, simplify the stormwater permitting process, and help the 260 MS4 communities meet the MS4 deadline to adopt local rules that meet EPA's Minimum Control Measures. Alignment of the stormwater regulatory frameworks will also provide benefits that improve resilience for wetland ecosystems and for drainage and transportation infrastructures under changing climate conditions.

- ***Precipitation Projections for Stormwater Management***

MassDEP is preparing to update the Wetlands Protection Act stormwater regulations pertaining to precipitation intensity and frequency by, at a minimum, adopting the NOAA Atlas 14- Precipitation-Frequency Atlas of the United States Volume 10 Version 3.0: Northeastern States. This will address related stormwater management issues and broader climate resilience implications by incorporating the most recent storm data. MassDEP is also considering options for incorporating precipitation projections that account for future conditions.

MassDEP will also update the Advisory Committee on additions to the MA Stormwater Handbook such as the MassDEP Wetlands Program Solar Array Policy and special considerations being developed to address constraints imposed by limited Rights of Way (ROW) on MassDOT linear highway projects.

The environmental community is well represented on the committee including:

Massachusetts Audubon Society

Heidi Ricci

Assistant Director of Advocacy

Massachusetts Rivers Alliance	Ian Cooke	MRA Board Member
MA Association of Conservation Commissioners	Sandra Brock	MACC Board Member
MA Department of Conservation and Recreation	Robert Lowell	DCR Stormwater Manager
MA DEP Wetlands Program (AC Chair)	Stephanie Moura	Director, Wetlands and Waterways Division

The powerpoint presentations from the first meeting are available. The public meetings are difficult to cover due to scheduling and location, however I will monitor the materials posted after each one and attempt to attend the wrap up meeting in Boston on April 28. We may see benefits or impacts from the storm water run-off regulation changes.

Agreement with Plymouth 400:

The agreement has been completed. HPWA is an Organizational Partner with Plymouth 400. I am working on proposals to list our herring count, WFMD Herring Crawl and our public meetings on the 400 site.

We should consider showing the Plymouth 400 logo on our website as a partner.

WFMD Site:

Our annual herring count is listed on the World Fish Migration Day site. Now that I know the way to create events, additional listing will be added for Herring Fest and WFMD Herring Count.

Herring Count Notes:

We have approximately 22 individuals on my herring counters list...emails going out this week. Still looking for more. Next: need to hit up the Old Colony for an article.

I will be taking Martha up on the offer to email blast a request for more counters.