

**Mystic River Watershed Steering Committee
Draft Water Quality Meeting Notes
January 24, 2011**

**9:00 am US EPA New England, 6th Floor,
Mount Roosevelt Room, 5 Post Office Square, Boston, MA**

Talking Points

The group had an in-depth discussion of which priorities from the chart to add to the Mission and Priorities document. They've compiled a list of priority items of things that the Steering Committee can focus their attention on in 2011-2012. They will present this list to the Steering Committee on February 16, 2011.

Discussion on Priorities Chart

- After priorities are chosen, the group could make a list of the role of regulatory agencies as well as a time line and a series of tasks
- What resources are available to the Steering Committee in order to accomplish the goals set by the WQ subgroup?
- Identification of a particular segment in the watershed – group recommends putting together a separate working group
- 2/3 of what we do should make progress in the short-term
- Pet waste –there is not much of a SC role
- Human health risk – related to fish consumption
- Sediment and recreation – medium to long term goal
- CSO's – Long term control plan is in effect and there is little opportunity for SC input.
- NPS and stormwater – important but can the SC provide resources efficiently?
- The Steering Committee can help municipalities focus on details regarding SSOs
 - Municipalities are pushing back on EPA regarding MS4 permits
- Low/no P fertilizers go beyond MS4 permits. We could get the municipalities to work together – Cambridge has done it.
- Group discussed ways to phrase the goals, as well as prioritize and make recommendations for each one.
- There is a lot that municipalities don't understand with regards to the new MS4 permit. EPA is planning to host 4 workshops (one in the Mystic). This is one step of a multi-step process to help cities and town understand stormwater regulations and help them manage stormwater efficiently
- There are no waste water treatment plants in the Mystic, but there is a composting facility upstream from Winchester Hospital on the Aberjona that emits phosphorus
- The Steering Committee could develop a Municipal Assistance Program where municipalities provide suggestions
- The priorities of the Steering Committee need to reflect:
 - The need to work on getting it able to fix the problem
 - The goal of fishable and swimmable
 - The need for a concrete step on what the solution is

Next Steps

- The will bring this list back to their constituencies for comment, and get comments to the group by 1/21/11.
- Conference call to discuss M&P language and presentation to Steering Committee on February 8, 2011 from 9-10am.