

**Mystic River Watershed Steering Committee Meeting
Draft Flip Chart Notes
March 11, 2009**

Ground Rules:

- Everyone is encouraged to speak
- Please raise your hand to speak
- All ideas should be treated with respect
- One person should speak at a time
- Try not to use acronyms or abbreviations
- Ideas should be written as the speaker intends
- Audience member should state their name and affiliation before they speak

Agreement Points:

- Purpose and structure document will be considered a “living document” and will be amended and changed as needed.
- A process for reaching consensus will be developed at the next meeting.
- Quorum will be a minimum of 50% of members present representing community stakeholders (at least 6) and 50% of members present representing government stakeholders (at least 6).
- Voting on an issue will occur when consensus fails. Quorum is needed and 2/3 majority of present voting members is needed to reach agreement.
- The Steering Committee will meet every two months to begin. Locations and agenda will be determined and communicated in advance.
- A process for engaging and involving businesses will be reviewed at the next meeting.

2009 Priorities for Action:

- Create a clearinghouse/central location for past and present research and projects throughout the Mystic River Watershed.
- Create a comprehensive plan for the Mystic River Watershed (e.g. land use, development, others)
- Create an environmental atlas for the Mystic River Watershed (e.g. resources, other issues historical and present)
- Establish a Mystic River cleanup boat (like the Charles River cleanup boat)
- Connect pathways between the river and its tributaries
- Establish TMDLs for nutrients (e.g. phosphorus) as a water quality priority
- Increase safe, public access to the Mystic River
- Increase level of environmental compliance in Mystic River Watershed with measurable results
- Increase public awareness, understanding and access to information about the Mystic River Watershed
- Create newsletter capturing work of the Steering Committee in the Mystic River Watershed
- Create opportunities to listen to community needs and concerns (e.g. listening session)
- Organize and coordinate cleanup events along the Mystic River

- Increase the level of enforcement activity in the Mystic River watershed on environmental issues by all government stakeholders (e.g. federal, state and local)
- Improve coordination of planning and development activities in the Mystic River watershed and look at cumulative impact of development decisions
- Address pollution from multiple sources and change behavior and practice on key issues (e.g. lawn care, pesticides, residential landscaping techniques, etc.)
- Create a strategy to engage and involve youth on a range of environment and public health issues (e.g. lawn care, pesticides, etc.)
- Create a standardized bylaw/models for use in the Mystic River watershed
- Identify and secure resources including funding for needed activities/projects in the Mystic River watershed
- Establish and select priorities for next three years to improve water quality in the Mystic River, lakes, and streams in the watershed
- Create metrics/measurement to track progress and determine success
- Conduct briefings for funders to attract attention and larger resources for projects
- Improve communication/coordination between agencies and departments that normally do not work collaboratively
- Communicate established priorities in a high visibility way
- Report Card event should also include information on positive accomplishments in addition to the grade

Follow up Actions:

- Determine process for reaching consensus at the next Steering Committee meeting. (Lead = NOAH, Brenda Cotto-Escalera)
- Create proposal and options to engage and involve businesses in the Steering Committee and the larger Mystic River effort for next meeting. (Participants: MyWRA – Ekongkar Singh Khalsa, CWC, Ivey St. John, and EPA, Stephen Perkins)
- Work with EPA to organize and coordinate next report card event in 2009 (Participants – CGRC, Roseann Bongiovanni; MWRA Lise Marx; NOAH, Brenda Cotto-Escalera; CWC, Pam Daly; WREN, Ed Quinn)
- Revisit 2009 priority actions at next meeting and identify top priorities.
- Next meetings of the Steering Committee will be in the morning on:
 - May 20, 2009 (Winchester - Town Hall?)
 - July 15, 2009 (Arlington/Medford – Century Bank?)
 - September 16, 2009 (Woburn – TBD)
 - November 18, 2009 (Chelsea – TBD)

Parking Lot/Bike Rack:

- Location of business representative in determining “Quorum” – “Community”, “Government”, or Other
- Publicize the Steering Committee meetings better (e.g. newspaper, web, etc.)
- Environmental Joint Powers Act

Mystic River Steering Committee Sign-in Sheet
March 11, 2009

Name	Organization	E-mail address
Ivey St. John	Charlestown Waterfront Coalition (CWC)	gran.nie@comcast.net
Andrew DeSantis	Chelsea Department of Public Works (DPW)/Revere ConCom	adesantis@chelseama.gov
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Brenda Cotto-Escalera	Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH)	brenda@noahcdc.org
Edward Quinn	Woburn Residents Environmental Network (WREN)	bosstang@rcn.com
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