



# Herring River Restoration Project

## “Return of the Tide”

Low-Lying Roads  
0% Design  
Public Meeting  
February 4, 2015



[www.friendsofherringriver.org](http://www.friendsofherringriver.org)



# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Purpose of the meeting
- Overview of the Herring River Restoration Project and Key Features of the Plan
- Low Lying Roads – What needs to be changed and why
- Discussion and public input
- Summary and Next Steps



# Purpose of the Meeting

- To present information on the project
- To describe why Pole Dike, Old County and Bound Brook Roads need to be investigated and likely raised in specified areas and culverts replaced
- To hear public concerns, needs and questions for consideration during the design phase
- To prepare for the start of engineering and design of roadwork and culvert replacement



## Why are we doing this project?

- To restore self-sustaining tidally influenced natural habitats
- To achieve ecological and social benefits of a healthy and productive tidal marsh
- To stop the degradation of the marsh. With the restricted tidal flow we have today, the marsh will not stay the same
- To replace the deteriorating Chequessett Neck Road tide gates with an improved tide control structure



## Ecological Benefits

- Restore nutrients that are needed for the productivity of the marsh, Wellfleet Harbor and Bay and coastal waters
- Improve water quality through tidal flushing
- Restore finfish and shellfish habitat and eel and herring runs
- Deposit sediment in the estuary to compensate for sea-level rise
- Replace existing degraded habitats with healthy tidally dependent vegetation



## Social Benefits

- Reduce pollution (nitrogen, coliform bacteria)
- Improve water quality
- Restore harvestable finfish & shellfish areas lost when the dike was constructed 100 years ago
- Provide public access
- Enhance opportunities for recreation, boating, birding, fin and shellfishing
- Reestablish natural control of nuisance mosquitoes



# Tidal Restoration

The removal of existing restrictions in the river and its tributaries to allow controlled incremental return of natural tidal flow to and from the estuary.





# Major Projects







# General Schedule

- 2015 – Final EIS & Record of Decision
- 2015 – Mitigation planning with owners of low lying property
- 2015 / 2016 – Continue engineering & prepare permit ready designs
- 2016 / 2017 – Obtain local, state and federal permits
- 2016 / 2017 – Secure project funding
- 2018 / 2020 – Construction



# Project Purpose

- Elevate Roadways
  - Raise the elevation of low lying roads
  - Accessibility during large coastal storm events
  - Blend with existing grades/features (driveways)
- Replace Existing Culverts
  - Increase culvert capacity
  - Incorporate safety elements
  - Control gate



# Study Area





# Design Elements

- Culvert/Gate Design
  - Safety
- Road Alignment
- Traffic Management
  - Construction phasing
  - Detour plans
- Drainage/Utilities
- Impact Minimization
  - Wetlands
  - Access/driveways





# Upcoming Field Work



- Field Survey
- Wetlands Edge Verification



- Geotechnical Investigation
  - 4 to 5 days of drilling



# Project Schedule

- Field Work: February 2015
- Preliminary Design Plans: April 2015
- Design Public Meeting: April 2015
- Final Report: June 2015
- Permit Plans: July 2015





# Discussion/Public Input



- Design Elements
  - Safety
  - Drainage
- Points of Interest
- Road Usage
- Access to Private Property



# Friends of Herring River

## Board of Directors

- Barbara Brennessel
- Lisbeth Wiley  
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- Debby Freeman
- Joel Fox
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- Alice Iacuessa
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