

Huntley Meadows Park
Wetland Restoration Public Forum
May 30, 2007
Notes, Ideas, Questions and Comments

SILT TOPICS

1. How will the silt pond work? Where will it be located? How will it be monitored?
2. What is the impact on the upper meadow if silt is placed on it? Is there an impact outside the park?
3. Where will the upland meadow be created with the dredged silt?
4. Water levels: will there be mud flats? People have enjoyed seeing shorebirds in recent years.
5. Siltation - sources are from outside and inside the park therefore should an external silt device be created?
6. Silt removal in specific places: where and how will the silt be removed and how will the selected areas be chosen?
7. Where will dredged material be disposed (if dredging occurs)? What will be the impact on the deer population and activity?
8. Silt street sweeper within the watershed to prevent further flow into the park (County or VDOT).
9. Explain further the silt measurements.
10. Should anticipate more silt accumulation.

SPECIES TOPICS

1. Is the area that will be managed large enough for the keystone species to thrive?
2. How will invasive species be controlled especially on the dam area?
3. What is the recovery time to bring the species back?
4. What will be the management of the crawfish with regard to the siltation issue if full removal of silt does not occur?
5. What will happen if there is beaver activity upstream? Will the beavers be “managed” if they decide to build a dam where one is not wanted?
6. Where will the plantings come from - native in the County?
7. How will the plants be managed?

8. How were the keystone and other list of important species generated?
9. Make sure the plantings are good for HMP.
10. Excited to see otters.
11. What are B&N proposing, in terms of species? Which ones are being left out?
12. Continuing diversity of both birds and animals.
13. Can otters live in the managed area?
14. Are fish part of the equation?
15. There needs to be a better understanding of what is meant by “managing” species.
16. What techniques will be used to control the beaver and Canada geese?
17. What species lose (Ibis and sandpipers)?
18. Why are we not trying to remove (kill) geese now?
19. “Diversity of species”-what does that mean?
20. “Management of species” – what does that mean?
21. How can the Canada Geese be minimized?
22. How long will it take to re-establish vegetation and bring back keystone species or species of interest?

FUNDING AND COMMUNICATION TOPICS

1. Where will the funding for Phase II and beyond come from?
2. Funding - commitments to funding – projects can go forward and then die if the funding falls through – who will push for fundraising?
3. PR should be proactive and should be done well in advance.
4. Fundraising could benefit from community PR.
5. Public education programs about the project should be done - the more the public understand the more they will accept what is happening and the more they will share with others what will be going on.
6. Make sure there is continued education component at the park.
7. Need to publicize HMP more, including open forum and public meetings.
8. There should be a fundraiser/PR person on the project team.
9. HMP could obtain grants to help fund the restoration.

DAM TOPICS

1. Further explanation as to why the dam needs to be so wide.
2. How will the dam be built?
3. Clarify the term “pulse” and does it affect the system downstream?
4. Clarify the need for the size of the dam.
5. How will the water level be decided (i.e who decides when the pulsing will occur over the course of the year and year to year)?
6. How does the water control structure work in connection to the pulse dynamics and how will it affect down stream habitat?
7. The hydrologic “pulse” gave HMP different views throughout time - further teachings about that would be good to have.
8. What are the construction impacts of building a dam with regard to both equipment and materials?
9. Will the dam (which will also function as a nest structure for muskrats) be constructed of natural or artificial materials?
10. Quantity of water - is there enough flowing into the park to support the plan and the beaver activity below?

HUNTLEY MEADOWS PARK TOPICS

1. Is there a board of science advisors (not consultants, not staff, not elected officials)?
2. If the central wetland is what is being managed, what happens to the rest of the park?
3. What is the impact of this project on HMP and beyond?
4. How disruptive will the process be to the animals, plants and visitors?
5. Will the Park Authority educate people on the purpose of the project?
6. What are the public relations effort planned during restoration?
7. Will there be negative impact on the park and neighboring communities? If so, how will this be handled?
8. Will the relationship between the board walk and the wetland change? Would like to be able to still see children looking down from the board walk to see frogs.

PERMITTING AND MONITORING TOPICS

1. Who monitors during and after the project is completed?
2. What is the permit process and who is involved?
3. Who will monitor the wetlands and for how long?
4. Who makes sure that monitoring continues?

MISC. TOPICS

1. What is the approximate time line for the entire project?
2. How was B&N selected? Qualifications?
3. How long will restoration project take?
4. How will Fort Belvoir progress affect the project?
5. In natural wetlands, changes are created - man made changes are not as interesting.
6. Will the wetland restoration improve water quality and other wetland functions?
7. Is the design shown tonight conceptual?
8. Conceptual idea won't depend on beavers to maintain water levels.
9. Should get the water structure in sooner rather than later.
10. Would like more information about the design of the deeper pools and how they will function.
11. Why not eliminate or fill ditches to prevent them from draining the wetlands?
12. Why was nothing done previously?
13. How do we decide on where to restore the wetlands? Can we use the existing topography/foot print?
14. We should maximize the amount of wetlands we can create.