



# Housatonic River Natural Resource Restoration Massachusetts SubCouncil *Round 2 Public Information Meeting*



September 25, 2008  
Lenox Town Hall  
Lenox, Massachusetts

WOODLOT



Stantec

Massachusetts SubCouncil, Housatonic River Natural Resource Trustees  
100 Cambridge, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Boston, Massachusetts 02114



## *Background - Restoration Funding*

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- MA SubCouncil is responsible for disbursing funds from Massachusetts portion of the Housatonic River Natural Resource Damages (NRD) recovery.
- Funds used for compensatory restoration projects that will restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent of natural resources and/or their services that were injured or lost as a result of the release of hazardous materials, including PCBs, into the Massachusetts portion of the Housatonic River watershed.



## *Review of Round 1 Highlights*

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- 12/21/05 – Round 1 Request for Responses
- 02/07/06 – Applicant Conference
- 03/21/06 – Response Deadline
- 04/27/06 – Threshold Criteria Results
- 09/21/06 – Evaluations of Project Proposals
- 04/13/07 – Announcement of Trustee Preferred Alternatives
- 06/22/07 – Draft RP/SEA Released
- 07/09/07 – Presentation of Draft Round 1 RP/SEA
- 10/12/07 – Final Round 1 RP/SEA
- 12/27/07 – Begin Awarding Project Contracts



## *Round 1 Update*

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- Milestones Achieved
  - 10 Projects Selected for funding: \$4Million
- Funding Disbursed
  - \$665,000 paid to date



## *Round 1 Funded Projects - Aquatic Biological Resources and Habitat*

Title	Amount
<i>Rare Species Recovery on the Housatonic River, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife</i>	\$556,950
<i>West Branch of the Housatonic River Revitalization Project, City of Pittsfield</i>	\$750,000



## *Round 1 Funded Projects - Wildlife Resources and Habitat*

Title	Amount
<i>Rising Pond Land Acquisition, Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Inc.</i>	\$261,750
<i>Housatonic River Floodplain Forest Restoration Project, Project Native</i>	\$522,456
<i>Clapp Park to Wild Acres Greenway Project, City of Pittsfield</i>	\$250,000



## *Round 1 Funded Projects - Recreational Use*

Title	Amount
<i>Great Barrington Housatonic River Walk, Great Barrington Land Conservancy</i>	\$133,308
<i>Proposal to Provide Enhanced Public Access to the Housatonic River in Massachusetts, ESS Group, Inc.</i>	\$415,000
<i>Old Mill Trail, Housatonic Valley Association</i>	\$244,047



## *Round 1 Funded Projects - Environmental Education and Outreach*

Title	Amount
<i>Housatonic Environmental Literacy Program (HELP) for the River, Massachusetts</i> Audubon Society	\$631,410
<i>Berkshire Conservation Agent Program,</i> Berkshire Regional Planning Commission	\$235,079





## *Proposed Round 2 Highlights*

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\$3 million targeted disbursement

- 2 RFRs
- Emphasis on:
  - “Land Acquisition/Protection”: \$ 2M
    - Enhancement of Land Acquisition Criteria
  - “Other Restoration”: \$1M
    - Habitat Restoration Projects



## *Proposed -Future Round 3*

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- Hold funds in reserve for Round 3
  - Post Rest-of-River Decision
  - Recommended Funds allocated: \$2M



## *Review - Round 1 Land Acquisition Criteria*

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Four Categories:

- Relevance and Applicability of Project
- Technical Merit
- Project Budget
- Socioeconomic Merit



## *Review - Round 1 Land Acquisition Requirements*

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- Draft Conservation Restriction
- Land Appraisal
- Subdivision Plans
- Map Showing Proximity to Other Protected Areas
- Agency Letters
- Written Evidence of Project Feasibility



## *Proposed Round 2 - Land Acquisition*

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Process differs from Round 1

- Refine Land Acquisition Criteria
- Emphasis on Focus Areas
- Issue Draft Restoration Plan/Supplemental Environmental Assessment (RP/SEA)
  - Hold Public Meeting
  - Receive Public Comment on Draft RP/SEA
- Issue Final RP/SEA
- Request for Response (RFR) on rolling basis
- Land Acquisition Proposals Confidential

Targeted Disbursement = \$2 million



## *Proposed Round 2 - Land Acquisition Focus Group*

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- Concerned citizens and agencies encouraged to attend
- Proposed meeting October 21, 2008
- Forum for discussion of Land Acquisition Criteria



## *Proposed Round 2 – Considerations for Land Acquisition*

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- Nexus to Injured Natural Resources
- Presence of Rare Species and/or Habitat
- Cold Waters Fisheries Resources
- BioMap, Living Waters Core Habitat, or ACEC
- Exemplary Natural Communities
- Risk of Development
- Degree of Habitat Fragmentation
- Proximity to Other Protected Lands



## *Proposed Round 2 - Land Acquisition Timeline* *(subject to change)*

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- 10/21/08 – Land Acquisition Focus Group Meeting
- 01/09 or 02/09 – Draft RP/SEA Released
  - 01/09 or 02/09 – Public Meeting - Draft RP/SEA
- 04/09 – Final RP/SEA
- 05/09 – Issue Rolling RFR
- TBD – Evaluate Proposals
- TBD – Contracting





## *Proposed Round 2 – “Other Restoration”*

Process is similar to Round 1

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But focus is on Aquatic & Terrestrial Habitat

- Issue RFR
- Review & Evaluate Proposals
- Issue Draft RP/SEA
  - Hold Public Meeting
  - Receive Public Comment on Draft RP/SEA
- Issue Final RP/SEA

Targeted Disbursement = \$1 million



## *Proposed Round 2 - “Other Restoration” Timeline (subject to change)*

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- 11/08 – Release RFR
- 02/09 – Threshold Criteria Review
- 03/09 – Review Team Evaluation
- 06/09 – Draft RP/SEA
  - 06/09 – Draft RP/SEA Public Meeting
- 09/09 – Final RP/SEA
- 10/09 – Contracting
- 12/09 – Begin to Release Round 2 Funds



## *Public Comment Period*

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Public Comment on Round 2 Information Meeting  
accepted until October 10, 2008.

Housatonic Round 2 Comments  
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(Subject line: Housatonic Round 2 Comments)

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