

Housatonic NRD Project in Connecticut



- Rick Jacobson – CT Department of Environmental Protection
- Veronica Varela – US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Ken Finkelstein – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin.



Overview of Project Submittals

Submittals Received

- 92 submittals in total
- 86 have a Project Sponsor
- 6 were Project Ideas
- Summary table and copies of all submittals published on website

Primary Restoration Category	Count
Aquatic Natural Resources (e.g., fish & invertebrates)	28
Riparian & Floodplain Natural Resources (e.g., plants, birds, mammals, and some amphibians and reptiles)	37
Recreational Resources – active and passive uses (e.g., boating, fishing, hiking, bird watching, picnicking)	27

Sponsor Type	Count
Academic Institution	1
Business	13
Federal Government	1
Municipal Government	22
Non-Profit Organization	27
State Government	13
Tribal Government	5
Other	10

Eligibility Criteria & Screening Process

Review Process For Submittals

- 1) Cataloged and given an ID number
- 2) Reviewed to determine if all required information included (Criterion #1)
- 3) Screened versus remaining criteria by consultant team. Preliminary eligibility determinations made
- 4) Preliminary eligibility determinations submitted to Trustees for review and discussion
- 5) Draft eligibility determinations by Trustees
- 6) Final eligibility determinations by Trustees following public comment

Eligibility Criteria

- Does the proposal contain all required information?
 - No, project may be ineligible
- Does the project restore, rehabilitate, replace, and/or acquire natural resources or services equivalent to those injured?
 - No, project is ineligible
- Is the project required under other federal, state, or local law, including, but not limited to, enforcement actions?
 - Yes, project is ineligible
- Is the project inconsistent with federal, state, and local law and policy?
 - Yes, project is ineligible
- Will the project be inconsistent with remedial actions?
 - Yes, project is ineligible

Eligibility Determination

- Failure to comply with any of the 5 Eligibility Criteria render the submittal ineligible
- The eligibility status of projects presented today is based on currently available information
- Eligibility criteria will remain in effect throughout the restoration process
- Project eligibility status will be reviewed on an ongoing basis
- Projects found to not comply with any of the Eligibility Criteria at any point in the process will be dropped from further consideration

Summary of Overall Results

Draft Eligibility Screening Results

- 75 Submittals were eligible
- 17 Submittals were ineligible
 - 7 did not provide all required information (Eligibility Criterion Number 1)
 - 6 did not provide “restoration” of injured natural resources or services (Eligibility Criterion Number 2)
 - 4 were required by other laws or regulations (Eligibility Criterion Number 3)

Eligibility Results Available on Website

- Eligibility Screening Report
 - Brief abstract of submittal with basis for eligibility determination
- Updated Summary Table

Basis For Ineligible Determination

Failure to Comply With Criterion #1

Submittals Must Include:

1. One (1) original copy of the submittal package, including:
 - a) Completed Responder and Project Summary Form
 - b) Project Narrative, Project Location, and Criteria Statements.
 - c) Any supporting material such as maps, plans, photographs, etc.
2. Six (6) additional hard copies of the complete submittal package (described above) provided entirely on 8.5 x 11-inch paper. Note, that although it will not impact the evaluation of the submittal, the CT SubCouncil prefers double-sided copies.

Failure to comply with the instructions may result in rejection of the proposal.

Failure to Comply With Criterion #2

- Projects must restore, rehabilitate, replace, and/or acquire natural resources or services equivalent to those injured.
- Study only projects do not meet criterion.
- Projects that are primarily education and historic preservation activities do not meet criterion.
- Projects that primarily address public safety and infrastructure needs do not meet criterion

Failure to Comply With Criterion #3

- Projects required under other federal, state, or local law, including, but not limited to, enforcement actions do not meet criterion.
- Any necessary remediation of PCB contaminated sediments will be mandated by USEPA/CTDEP and performed by others.
- Stormwater management projects may required by federal/state regulation.
- Phosphorus removal from wastewater treatment facilities and dam safety repairs mandated by CTDEP if needed

Trustee Concerns

Trustee Concerns To Be Addressed in RSI

- Restoration work on land that may have limits on public use (municipal or privately owned land) – Conditions may be imposed by Trustees if funded.
- Erosion Projects – Erosion problems caused by human intervention can be funded. Those resulting from natural causes may not.
- Repair, alteration, removal of dams – those activities addressing safety issues that could be mandated by CTDEP will not be funded.

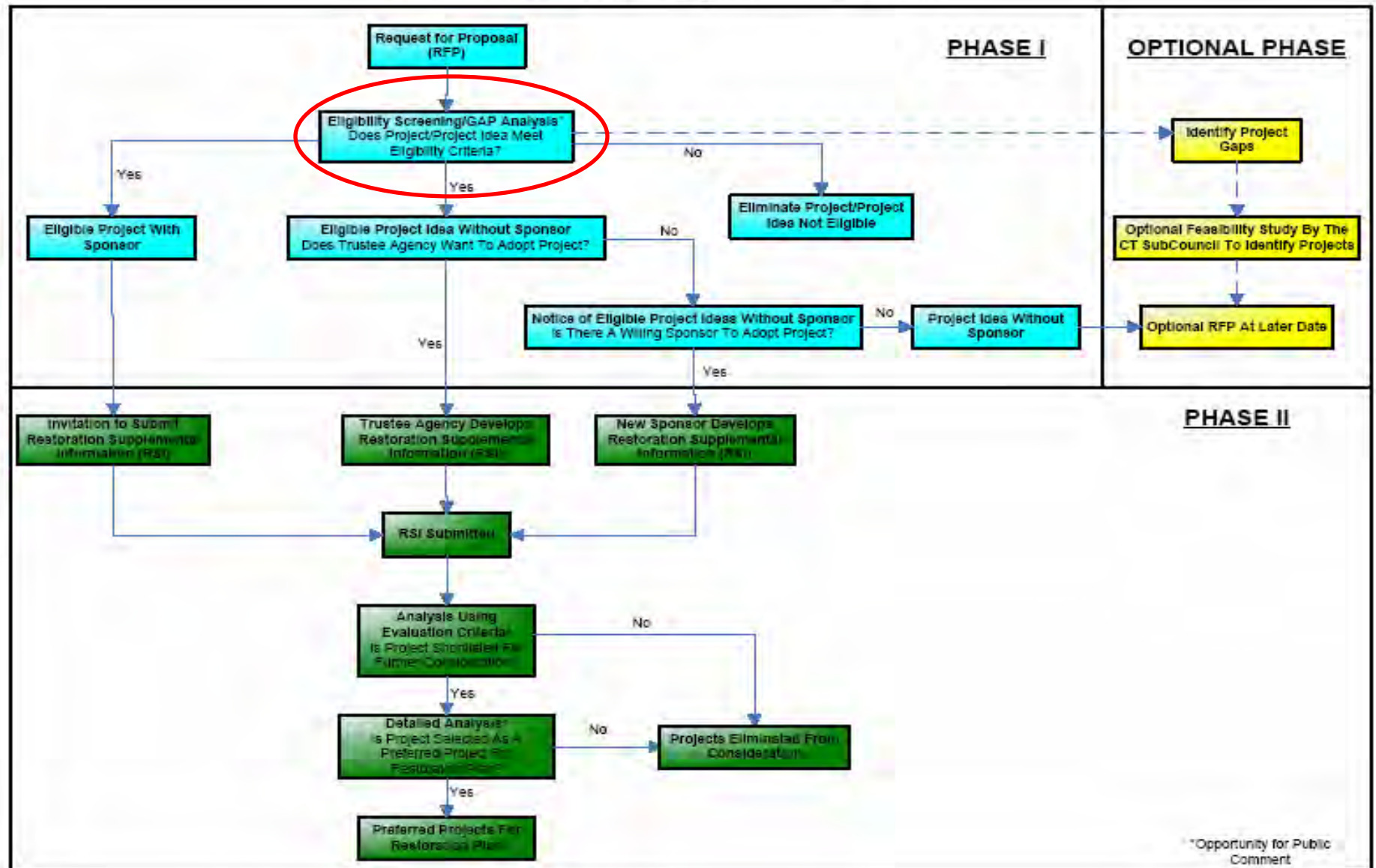
Trustee Concerns To Be Addressed in RSI (continued)

- Stormwater management projects – project elements required by regulation will not be funded.
- Establishment of funds from which grants would be issued by others constitutes a delegation of Trustee authority and not legally acceptable – revision in proposed process required

Schedule

Where Are We Now

Connecticut SubCouncil Project Selection Process



Next Steps – Supplemental Information Submittals

- Written Comments – March 12, 2007
- Final Eligibility Report – March 27, 2007
- Request for Supplemental Information – March 28, 2007
- Supplemental Information submittal Deadline - June 20, 2007

Next Steps – Project Evaluation and Restoration Plan Development

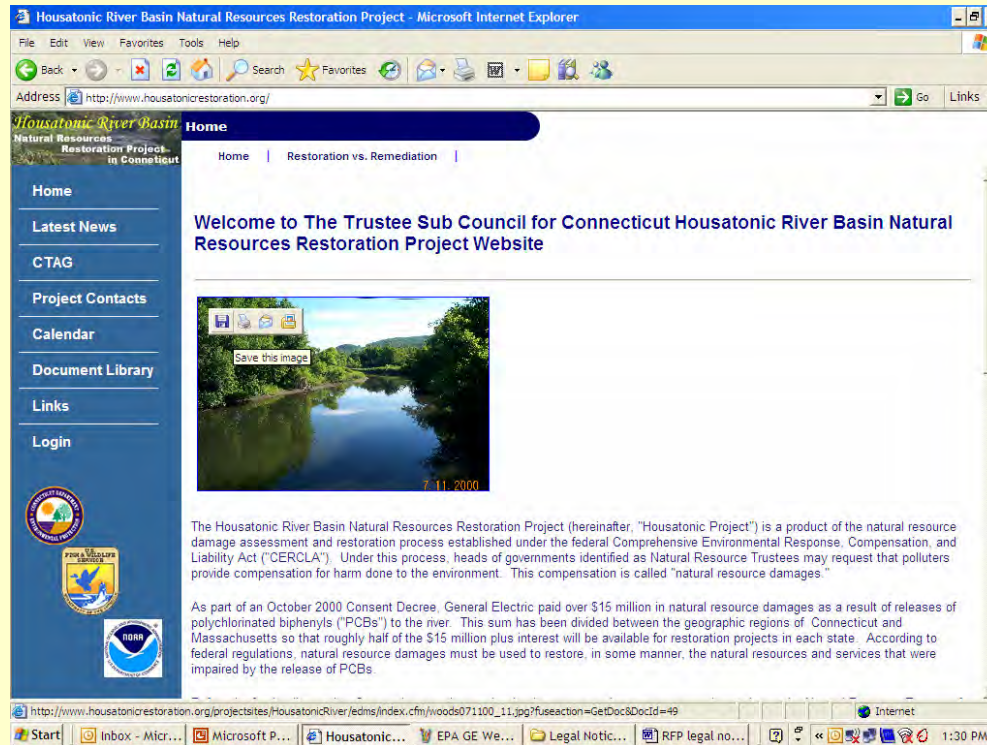
- Shortlist Projects based on Evaluation Criteria Analysis – September 2007
- Publish Draft Restoration Plan w/ Preferred Projects List – January 2008
- Final Restoration Plan Adopted – May/June 2008
- Grant Awards – 3rd to 4th Quarter 2008

About “Written Comments”

- Mike Powers is the sole point of contact for any questions and/or written comments concerning eligibility. His email address is:

Michael.Powers@po.state.ct.us

All Information on the Housatonic NRD Project in CT



<http://www.housatonicrestoration.org/>

Questions????