

## Staff mtng notes 2.9.23

Hillman, Matthew D <matthew\_hillman@fws.gov>

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To:FW5 RW Parker River NWR <FW5\_RW\_Parker\_River\_NWR@fws.gov>;FW5 GAOA North <FW5\_GAOA\_North@fws.gov>

Never sent this out last week -- thanks to Nancy for being the note taker.

**2/09/2023 08:30:**

*Note taker: Nancy*

### **Kudos:**

- Heather – For doing an amazing job preparing the wetland permit applications for 6 towns! And for helping Jean out on Sundays.
- The weekend crew for working so hard to make sure visitors are being respectful when viewing wildlife
- Nancy and Liana for excellent presentations during the Great Marsh Revitalization Task Force
- Liana and Amy for all the prep work for helping to lead the Biologist and Plover Workshop sessions
- Mary Kate for saving FWS \$\$ for working with National Grid for Bunkhouse billing.
- Denise for figuring out how to let FWS employee use their travel card for staying in bunkhouse (from Suzanne Workman at Dismal Swamp)
- Bob keeping heat on and checking buildings during deep freeze.
- Jean for cleaning up Bill Forward Blind! Huge job!
- Thank you to Ella, Nancy, and Matt for support of Groundworks Lawrence application for NFWF Five-Star and Urban Waters grant application.

### **General Notes:**

- Additional meter in old Carpenter shop also not getting Bill. Bob will get meter #, and MK will follow up with NG.
- For future staff meetings that don't have safety talks, invite staff to share like Christian did.

### **GAOA (Christian):**

- Gave a presentation on GAOA team work on boardwalk and pier replacement at Eastern Neck NWR
- Uploaded slides to Staff meeting notes folder
- Gave year-end review to leaders in Region.
- Planning meeting with Darren and Matt H. to plan annual work plan.

### **Matt:**

- [Advertise Your Station's Open FWS Internship](#)
- **NWRA awards are due March 10 – consider nominating a Friends or colleague!**
- [Free retirement courses in 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March](#) – sessions available for new employees, mid-career, and nearing retirement
- Required mandatory training and deadlines—make sure you get it done so RO don't have to send reminder emails.

- Attended MRBA meeting on Feb 3; most of discussion was on resuming river dredge operation and depositing sand in the area of Reservation Terrace. If not completed by 01 Apr, they will need to hire PIPL monitors
- [Update to M-19-21 Transition to Electronic Record Deadline](#) - extended to 2024!
- Upcoming: GAOA strike team annual travel/project planning meeting here on Monday 13th using conference room); meet Tim Simmons (tiger beetles); Thatcher Isl Assoc. Meeting; **all staff house cleaning on Feb 23 at 10:00**
- Happy President's Day Feb 20!

**Bob:**

- Servicing heavy equipment and bus, having difficult time finding body shop that will look at bus, got new tires and have appointment next week for engine light
- HVAC fall service completed. one of the air handlers fan motor was found to be bad. It is to the store room off classroom so I opted to wait on repair until next service or if I have time this spring
- Many small emergency's with cold weather, broken windows at pink house and light house keepers both fixed, door locks hellcat restrooms and old office at light house keepers house parking area both fixed. The hellcat restroom door needs to be fixed to really fix that problem I'm searching for parts
- Will be taking next Monday off
- Will be continuing to work on equipment maintenance

**Denise:**

- Mentoring Mary Kate on the GS7 role

**Liana:**

- Working on preparing the RDAs for pepperweed control in 6 towns. Hearings begin in March. We will also be planning a pepperweed webinar for landowners. **We may need help stuffing envelopes starting around February 15, let us know if you know anyone who would like to help 😊**
- Finishing up 2022 reporting for RO. Rick will be in February 14<sup>th</sup> to help w/ our GIS reporting
- VERY IMPORTANT: My mom is coming to visit the office/VC on February 15<sup>th</sup>!!
- Working on pesticide permitting (Mosquito aerial or broadcast?)

**Amy:**

- Plover working went very well, MA has over 1,000 pairs!!!
- Working on 1000-acre marsh design, meeting with Geoff this afternoon
- Met with the FS from Durham and Forest Health Protection yesterday at GB to talk about possible collab on working on better management; FHP is also interested in looking at the extent of possible invasives (AWH and Hemlock scale) at Wapack
- Sat in the GB2030 meeting yesterday, only two mentions of pursuing the topic of Stubbs Pond removal
- Meeting with Rick 2/14 @ PR for GIS reporting

**Nancy**

- Grants for shorebird intern and to extend Heather all done. Annalee Mottee is an angel. Grant Solutions is garbage.
- Forestry assessment with USFS—see Amy's notes above.
- HMP review with Noah Kahn done... need to schedule review by Graham and Holly; working on EA; FMP
- Getting final Restoration Design from Geoff Wilson—hoping to finalize it later this month.
- Permitting—lots of discussions and working groups to try to ease permitting. Will submit permit for 1600-acre marsh in March sometime.
- Logistical/staffing planning for NFWF grant with DU and Mass Audubon
- Diversity and Inclusion for Plover practitioners—need to wrap up Action Items from workshop and develop some guidance for working groups.
- Lot 1 mgt—looking to see if we can not close Lot 1 without doing a Section 7 consultation (take permit).
- College field trips – need to coordinate with Ella about strategy of how to address these requests.

### Gareth:

- **Question for Ella: Sign—timer to shut off at night?**
  - o Ella: Not as easy as it should be
- Surfcaster show, March 18—Jean lead (Gareth going for a few hours).
- Gone to Nulhegan NWR for snowmobile detail, 2/17 - 2/19 w/ FWOs James/Perez - SFWO Kelly to cover PKRR?
- Quarterly regional DRLE call with Chief Casey – 2/8, updates, budget, etc; not a lot of new positions with budget bump
- Prepping for DRLE in-service at NCTC, week of April 2<sup>nd</sup> – will be on travel from Sunday, 4/2 to Sunday, 4/9 - return to PKRR on Wednesday, 4/12
- Annual LE physical – Wednesday, 3/8
- Adult bald eagle taken from MA EPOs in biology freezer – requested shipping label and forms for transfer to USFWS Eagle Repository. Will ship once label received.
- Catch up from being out last week
- Owl crowds continue almost daily at PKRR, but improved behavior observed and compliance with early closure at 4p
- Received speeding complaints related to owl – ran speed enforcement last 2 days for 4 hrs+ without issue.....sporadic issue, LE is aware and focusing on it
- A/L - Friday, 2/24 to Wednesday, 3/1; will work to coordinate with SFWO Kelly on supplemental coverage

### Ella

- Finalizing details for new park ranger – estimated start early to mid-March
- Lawrence yesterday (2/8) - lots of kids, lots of enthusiasm, Audubon has new after school lead. Raina is doing great! Led her first program. Will work with HAF to process her extension through summer.
- Waiting on final design / bid for proposed EV charger at HQ (Friends \$)
- Programs this week: tonight – paint and plant; Saturday – owl pellets; Saturday – kayak safety; Sunday – potential tracks and scat depending on weather. **PLEASE SEND ME YOUR MARCH / APRIL PROGRAM IDEAS** (Thank you Jean & MK 😊)
- Eagle Fest next week – RP running a virtual program Wednesday, Jean leading crafts on Saturday
- All program registration will be moving to Microsoft Forms sign up to reduce the e-mail management – thank you MK for doing one more round until the new ranger is onboarded.

- Finalizing educator grant – due tomorrow, prospective Fall 2023 – August 2024 project
- Met with Paige & MassWildlife R3 & BOW coordinators about increasing programming and resources for adults new to outdoor rec. Planning outreach + kickoff event in spring with Paige (paddling) and brainstorming resource / outreach sharing with Mass Wildlife for hunt / fish
- **LGO** May 20 ; **June 3** ; June 10 ; June 17 ?? Conflicts?? Moving to a FREE ticketed system and no beach bathing to reduce beach conflict. Joe at RecAccess will set up for us, and passes can be obtained from the VC day of (NOT the gatehouse).
- Raina is completing the Jr Ranger book and developing a new version for backyard use aimed at urban environments
- Halfway through new supervisor training ; halfway through new course as precursor for VS plan – teleworking on class days
- FRIENDS PROJECTS???
- Friends interest in operating game cams (easy) and possible live stream (hard – Friends of Blackwater providing AMAZING guidance) - locations / thoughts / concerns?

## Jean

- **Volunteer (Joe) coming faithfully on weekend... let Jean know if you need anything done on weekends. Helping with fishing lines.**
- JR duck stamp... March 15 deadline... art supplies for folks that need them.
- Plover Warden Orientation, March 25, 10-noon.
- Beach cleanup—March 4 or 11?
- Ordered 3 years' worth of Walk On stickers. No more clamming stickers.
- Changing gate timers on Saturdays – 1 hr before sunset until further notice
- Joe (gatehouse)'s contract ends Feb... will rely on Volunteers and Heather.

## Heather

- Schedule has officially changed to Sunday-Thursday
- Finishing up RDA Applications – should be done Monday
- Heard back from all Conservation Commissions except for Rowley and Newburyport
- Helping Liana with mailings
- Met with Mary-Ellen Dixon who runs weekly volunteer meetups at Willowdale State Forest to remove invasives – starting a program to remove invasives at headquarters-planned for March 5 and March 12: 10-12 and 1-3. “Volunteer learning Workshop”
  - Whiling to continue onto the refuge in the future
- Possible virtual professional development opportunity that I would like to attend-details to come
- Off February 26<sup>th</sup>

## MK

- Began GS-7 Admin mentoring program with Denise
- Officially taken over Fleet Cards from Denise
- Attended several JAO Administrative trainings the past two weeks to continue to learn more about Admin in the FWS
- Taken over transmittals for Special Use Permits
- Working on getting 889 from NH DOT to renew the directional sign in Newington

## Sharon

- Will do detail at Rhode Island NWR Complex for month of March
- Starting annual property inventory
- Starting annual safety self-inspection
- NASP archery training opportunity with Eastern MA NWR staff this spring. Please let me know your interest so I can provide a headcount of PKR staff to Joy by Friday.

Matthew D. Hillman

Project Leader

Parker River NWR Complex

Newburyport, MA

O: 978-572-5613

C: 774-303-9090

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/parker-river>

[matthew\\_hillman@fws.gov](mailto:matthew_hillman@fws.gov)



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