MEMORANDUM

TO: Jared Woolston, Town of Brunswick

FROM: Forrest Bell, FB Environmental Associates

SUBJECT: **Technical Advisory Committee Meeting #2: Minutes**

DATE: May 5, 2016

CC: Margaret Burns, FB Environmental; Jennifer Jespersen, Ecological Instincts

The purpose of this memorandum is to briefly summarize the discussion at the Mare Brook Watershed Assessment & Community Engagement Project Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting held at the Town Office in Brunswick, Maine from 1:00 - 2:30 pm on April 27, 2016. The purpose of this meeting was to provide the TAC with an overview of the work completed to date as well as to present the methodology for the stressor analysis. The meeting was televised, and can be viewed in full on Brunswick TV 3 available on the town website: http://tv3hd.brunswickme.org/Cablecast/Public/Show.aspx?ChannelID=1&ShowID=3455. These meeting notes are meant to be used in conjunction with the PowerPoint presentation that will be provided to the TAC in a separate document.

ATTENDEES

NAME	AFFILIATION	EMAIL
Baldwin, Christopher	Bowdoin College	chrisbaldwin@comcast.net
Bell, Forrest	FB Environmental	info@fbenvironmental.com
Brubaker, Tom	MRRA	tomb@mrra.us
Burns, Margaret	FB Environmental	margaretb@fbenvironmental.com
Craig, Matthew	Casco Bay Estuary Partnership	matthew.craig@maine.edu
Dana, Bill	Brunswick Planning Board	billdana2@myfairpoint.net
Dennis, Jeff	Maine DEP	jeff.dennis@maine.gov
Devereaux, Dan	Brunswick Marine Resources	ddevereaux@brunswickpb.org
Feindel, Kristin	Maine DEP	kristin.b.feindel@maine.gov
Ferdinand, Catherine	Bowdoin College	cferdina@bowdoin.edu
Jespersen, Jennifer	Ecological Instincts	jen@ecoinstincts.com
Leclerc, Robert	Navy	Robert.leclerc@navy.mil
Page, David	BACSE/Brunswick Rep to R.A.B.	dpage@bowdoin.edu
Stott, Sandy	Brunswick Conservation Commission	fsandystott@gmail.com
Woolston, Jared	Town of Brunswick	jwoolston@brunswickme.org

LOGISTICS and SCHEDULING

- The project now has a webpage where all relevant information and materials will be posted. Visit this page here: http://www.brunswickme.org/departments/planning-development/mbwsa/.

- There is a Bowdoin College student intern who is engaged in the project. This intern is interested in geographic information systems (GIS) and is scanning aerial imagery from 1953, 2009, and today to evaluate changes in land use over time in the watershed.
- FB Environmental would like to plan the first stakeholder meeting for after the distribution of landowner letters and before planned field surveys. This allows landowners with questions or concerns to attend the stakeholder meeting and learn more about the project.
- Field surveys in the summer of 2016 will proceed as planned with Stantec as part of the project team.
- A public meeting will also be scheduled for the fall of 2016 after field work is complete.
- Chris Baldwin asked if the TAC would be invited in the field to assist with fieldwork. Forrest indicated that the TAC is invited to participate in fieldwork, however, it is not practical to adjust fieldwork scheduling around the availability of the TAC. FBE will inform the TAC of the final field work schedule.

STRESSOR METHODOLOGY FEEDBACK and QUESTIONS

FB Environmental presented the stressor methodology that will be used throughout the Mare Brook watershed assessment process to identify threats to water quality spatially across the watershed. Details of this methodology is available in the accompanying document titled "Mare Brook_StressorAnalysis_forTAC_revised", containing a revision to Figure 1 from the initial document. This section highlights the feedback received from the TAC.

- Kristin Feindel noted that there is fecal coliform data from the estuary that should be included in the Data Directory, the Data Collection History, and the Stressor Analysis.
- Chris Baldwin asked if FB Environmental was recommending monitoring at all 24 identified discrete sampling locations.
    - Margaret Burns clarified: These sites represent aggregated sites from the historical data set. FBE does not suggest monitoring at all of these sites at this time.
- Jeff Dennis comments on the "toxics" stressor category:
    - So many potential toxins that it is hard to get at general toxicity- might end up spending a lot of effort and money on research and not learn anything.
    - Suggested bioassays to evaluate general toxicity to first identify whether toxics are a problem. Potentially using these assays to find an indicator toxic to evaluate?
        - This might be a tool to use further down the road in the Mare Brook Assessment.
- Jeff Dennis suggested thinking of stressors as "nested". For example, if dissolved oxygen (DO) is OK, then maybe we do not need to evaluate nutrients? Similarly, DO and bugs.
- Kristin Feindel suggested adding a physical stressor (e.g. flow, geomorphology) to the analysis.
    - This stressor will be added and will be better identified following the summer 2016 fieldwork.

    - Suggestion to add flow measurements to the 2016 stream corridor survey.

- Matt Craig recommended including criteria for the estuary as the current criteria only addresses the freshwater portion of the watershed.
- Kristin Feindel suggested prioritizing monitoring recommendations as a larger group.
- Dan Deveraux – DMR has data to add to the data directory. DMR has testing sites in the estuary from Princes Point down.
- Kristin Feindel told the group that the 2014 Integrated Monitoring Report was released and it lists impairments in Upper Harpswell Cove. For the 2014 report the Maine DEP used the DMR data to identify impairments.
- Matt Craig asked if there was any idea what the source of bacteria is upstream of the estuary.
- Dan Deveraux said that 20 – 30 acres are currently restricted for shellfish harvesting. This area has elevated Arsenic and Lead (some of the highest levels in the state). This cuts off access to millions of dollars' worth of clams. Some sanitary surveys have been conducted by DMR.
    - Jeff Dennis asked if this was a result of legacy toxics or if there was a continuous source causing this closure? Dan suggested that the Ar and Pb have been more elevated recently suggesting that there is still a source.
- David Page suggested adding another monitoring station on Merriconeag Stream to properly evaluate the streams influence on the estuary. Are there bioavailable toxins in shellfish below head of tide? He suggests taking a mussel watch approach (include this in a monitoring plan).