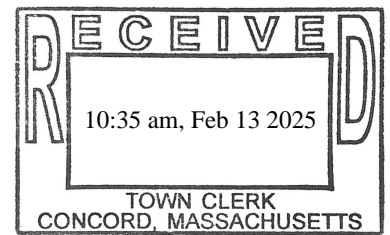


Warner's Pond Task Force  
Dredging Subgroup Meeting Minutes  
January 10, 2025



Pursuant to the notice filed with the Town Clerk, a public meeting of the Warner's Pond Task Force convened via Zoom at 6:00 pm on January 10, 2025.

Chris Denaro called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm. A roll call confirmed that the following Task Force Members were present on the Zoom call:

Paul Boehm, Chris Denaro, Keith Hannon, Bruce Curliss, and Jeff Quick

The minutes of the dredging subgroup meeting dated Dec 4, 2024 - Paul made a motion to approve, Keith seconded, it was unanimously approved.

The minutes of the dredging subgroup meeting dated Dec 9, 2024 - Paul made a motion to approve, Keith seconded, it was unanimously approved.

No public comments were received.

Dredging Proposal Review:

The meeting focused on the latest version of the dredging proposal. The first item was the need for Bruce's approval, which he provided, of his statement of working with partner communities and that the partner communities make the decisions regarding their communities, basically saying that the tribe will support what the community decides. The next item was discussion regarding the three alternatives of the proposal: a base project and two optional alternatives.

The team discussed the cost and feasibility of dredging the pond, with a focus on the base project. They agreed that the base project would partially restore the pond. They considered proposing a range of costs for dredging between 35,000 and 100,000 cubic yards, with the understanding that the task force would ultimately decide on the best option.

The group discussed the estimated lifespan of a dredging project in the watershed area based on sediment accumulation rates provided in a 2012 report. Chris cited the 2012 WP Management Plan Report's estimate of 43 to 64 cubic yards of sediment accumulation per year on a proposed dredging volume of 30,000 cubic yards, leading to a projected minimum 100-year lifespan. However, Keith and Bruce expressed uncertainty about this estimate, as it does not account for additional sediment redistribution from undredged areas. Paul was looking for clarity on whether the 100-year timeframe aligns with Keith's earlier statement about the base project only partially restoring the pond.

The team also discussed the order of sections in the proposal, deciding to keep the dredging location information at the end to emphasize the ecological and recreational benefits of the project. They agreed to leave the current order of sections as it is, with the recreational improvements section following the dredging locations. The team also discussed the potential for the base bid not being within their budget, but since the costs were high level estimates, we just need to proceed with our proposal.

Paul expressed concerns about the Ecological Improvement section appearing weak in the document. Keith suggested adding a comment for Toby to address this issue. The team agreed to add a new bullet for improved ability to paddle and navigate on the water for recreational improvements. They also discussed the high costs associated with dredging and the need for a meeting with Charter to discuss their dewatering plans.

The team discussed the costs associated with a feasibility study on a fish passage, which was estimated at \$50,000. They also discussed the timeline for the removal of Talbot Dam and the potential for fish to reach Warner's Pond. The team agreed to include a total cost section at the end of the document and to emphasize the minimum 100-year estimate for the benefits of dredging. They also decided to remove the entire PFAS bullet from the document.

The team discussed the uncertainty surrounding the regulation of PFAS and the potential impact on their project. The team agreed on the importance of clarifying the depth of groundwater and dam reclassification. There was a consensus on the need for a final cost section in their proposal to provide a clear understanding of the costs involved.

There was discussion about whether and how to include ecological considerations in the proposal for improvements to Warner's Pond. Paul believes the ecological aspects should not have a separate section as they are more of a benefit than part of the project itself. Bruce stated that the ecological impact is inherent in any action taken on the pond, so it need not be explicitly stated. Keith suggests the original impetus was recreational, but there are clear ecological benefits as well. The group seems to agree that the ecological piece does not require its own section but is implied through the overall goal of improving the health and condition of the pond.

The proposal as edited, was agreed to by all present, with Chris agreeing to add a summary cost section to the document and to send it to Toby.

There were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm.  
Respectfully submitted by Christine Denaro