

Housatonic River Natural Resource Restoration Massachusetts SubCouncil *Round 1 Threshold Criteria Evaluation*



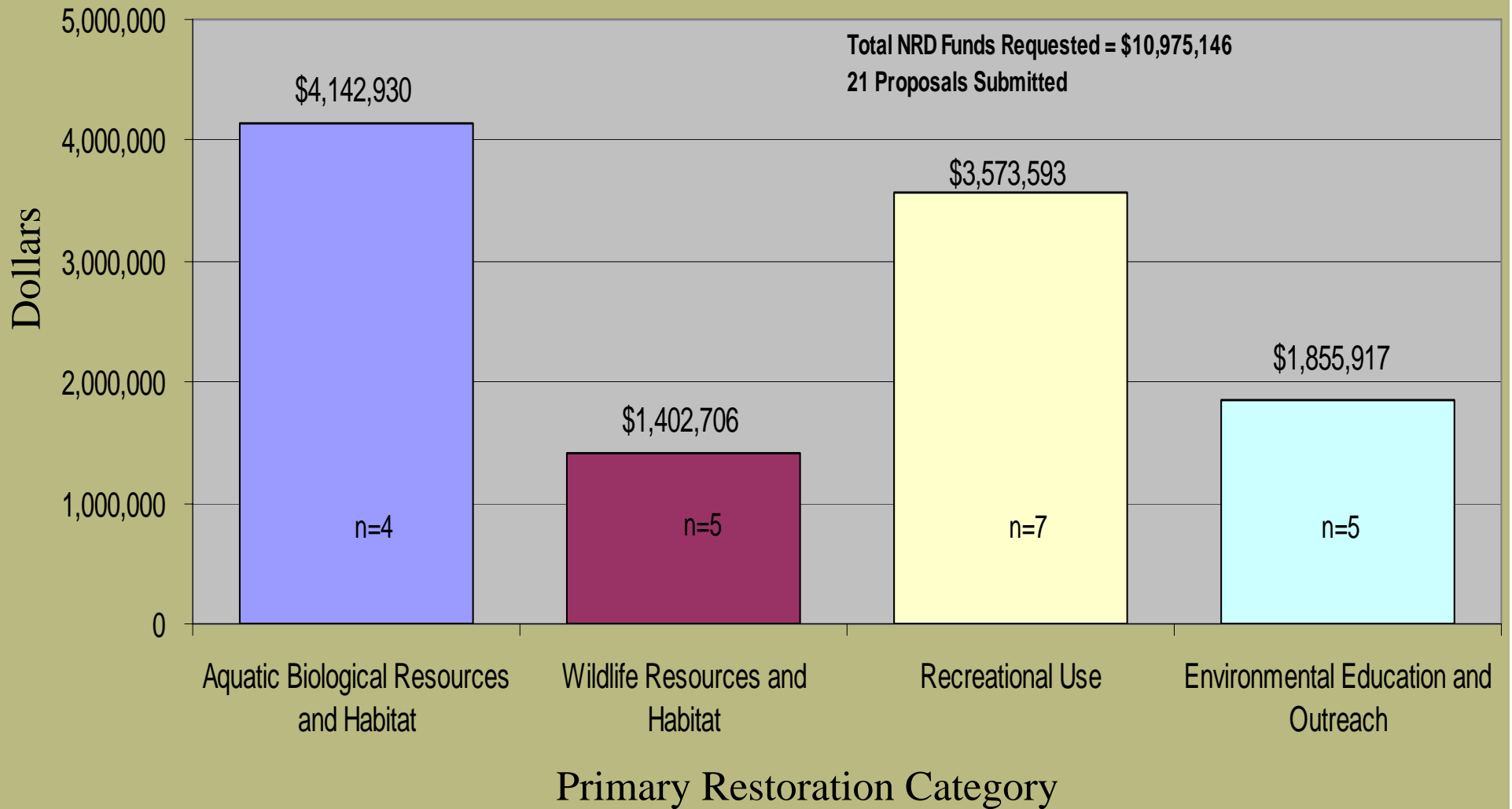
Public Information Meeting
April 27, 2006
Lenox Library Association
Lenox, Massachusetts



IEc
INDUSTRIAL ECONOMICS, INCORPORATED

Massachusetts SubCouncil, Housatonic River Natural Resource Trustees
100 Cambridge, 9th Floor Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Proposal Summary Information – NRD Funds Requested by Category





Threshold Criteria (TC)

TC No. 1: *Does the application contain the information necessary to proceed with an evaluation as described in the Restoration Project Selection Procedure (RPSP)?*

TC No. 2: *Does the proposed project restore, rehabilitate, replace, and/or acquire the equivalent of natural resources or natural resource services that were injured by the release of PCBs or other hazardous substances?*



Threshold Criteria (continued)

TC No. 3: *Is the proposed project, or any portion of the proposed project, an action that is presently required under other federal, state, or local law?*

TC No. 4: *Is the proposed project, or any portion of the proposed project, inconsistent with any federal, state, or local law, regulation, or policy?*



Threshold Criteria (continued)

TC No. 5: *Will the proposed project, in terms of its cost, be consistent with the stated goals of the MA SubCouncil to retain sufficient funds to 1) accomplish restoration over at least three rounds of proposal solicitations and 2) serve a wide geographic area that benefits the restoration priority categories?*

TC No. 6: *Will the proposed project, or any portion of the proposed project, be inconsistent with any ongoing or anticipated remedial actions (i.e., primary restoration) in the Housatonic River watershed?*



Aquatic Biological Resources and Habitat

Proposal No. 7 – *West Branch of the Housatonic Revitalization Project, City of Pittsfield*

- Develop greenway from Wahconah Park to Clapp Park.
- Remove Mill Street Dam.

✓ The Dam Removal component of the proposal passes Threshold Criteria. However, many of the activities comprising the Greenway component of the proposal appear to be minimum requirements of the City of Pittsfield's NPDES Phase II Small MS4 Stormwater Permit. Because these actions are already required by law the Greenway Component will not proceed to Stage 2 Evaluation because it fails Threshold Criterion 3.

\$2,057,000



Aquatic Biological Resources and Habitat

Proposal No. 9 – *Proposal to Perform Aquatic Habitat Restoration of the Housatonic River, ENSR Corporation*

- Collect and assess data from Housatonic River.
- Implement projects to improve communities of fish and related aquatic biota.

✓ Passes Threshold Criteria (final project selection will be coordinated with and be subject to the approval of the MA SubCouncil).

\$1,308,980



Aquatic Biological Resources and Habitat

Proposal No. 11 – *Housatonic Watershed Fisheries Assessment*, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

- Survey fisheries resources in watershed.
- Monitor brown trout movement with radiotelemetry.
- ✓ Passes Threshold Criteria.

\$220,000



Aquatic Biological Resources and Habitat

Proposal No. 18 – *Rare Species Recovery on the Housatonic River*, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

- Identify and protect rare species.
- Identify and prioritize sites for restoration.
- Provide conservation planning materials.

✓ Passes Threshold Criteria.

\$556,950



Wildlife Resources and Habitat

Proposal No. 2 – *Rising Pond Land Acquisition*, Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Inc.

– Acquire and protect 161 acres of land adjacent to the Housatonic River.

✓ Passes Threshold Criteria.

\$346,750



Wildlife Resources and Habitat

Proposal No. 10 – *Proposal to Perform Bartholomew's Cobble Restoration*, ENSR Corporation

- Develop a plan to protect rare species habitat from sediment laden runoff near Half River oxbow.
 - ✓ Passes Threshold Criteria because subsequent implementation of anticipated plan will restore natural resources.

\$18,700



Wildlife Resources and Habitat

Proposal No. 15 – *Clapp Park to Wild Acres Greenway Project*, City of Pittsfield

- Acquire 2 parcels of land on Southwest Branch of Housatonic River for protection from development and contribute to the eventual formation of a public-use greenway.

✓ Passes Threshold Criteria.

\$450,000



Wildlife Resources and Habitat

Proposal No. 17 – (Project Idea) *Integrated Habitat Acquisition Strategy*, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

- Proposes that 75% of NRD funds be earmarked for Land Acquisition.
- Proposes changes to MA SubCouncil's Land Acquisition process.
 - ✓ Passes Threshold Criteria.



Wildlife Resources and Habitat

Proposal No. 19 – *Housatonic River Floodplain Forest Restoration Project*, Project Native

- Restore native habitat at Kampososa Bog.
- Place 100 acres of floodplain forest and buffer zone under conservation easements.
- ✓ Passes Threshold Criteria.

\$587,256



Recreational Use

Proposal No. 1 – *Great Barrington Housatonic River Walk*,
Great Barrington Land Conservancy

- Reclaim 2.63 acres of riparian area.
 - Provide environmental education.
 - Conduct compost tea soil amendment studies.
- ✓ Passes Threshold Criteria.

\$133,308



Recreational Use

Proposal No. 5 – *Lee River Walk*, Lee Land Trust

– Provide recreational and educational pathway along riverbank in Lee.

✓ Passes Threshold Criteria.

\$62,000



Recreational Use

Proposal No. 6 – *Proposal for a Beaded Necklace Housatonic River Greenway*, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

- Provide master planning, feasibility study, conceptual design, and development of a detailed implementation plan for a combined bikeway/greenway.
 - ✓ Passes Threshold Criteria because anticipated bikeway/greenway restores natural resource services.

\$665,000



Recreational Use

Proposal No. 8 – *Proposal to Provide Enhanced Public Access to the Housatonic River in Massachusetts*, ESS Group, Inc.

- Evaluate 37 potential river access sites on the Housatonic River and construct 6-8 new access sites.
 - ✓ Passes Threshold Criteria (final project selection will be coordinated with and be subject to the approval of the MA SubCouncil).

\$460,000



Recreational Use

Proposal No. 16 – *Old Mill Trail*, Housatonic Valley Association

- Construct low-impact pedestrian trail adjacent to river between Dalton and Hinsdale.
- ✓ Passes Threshold Criteria.

\$244,047



Recreational Use

Proposal No. 20 – *The Rehabilitation of Forest Roads and Trails in the Housatonic River Watershed*,
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and
Recreation

- Selectively close, abandon, and reconstruct specific roads and trails to improve regional aquatic biological resources.
 - ✓ Passes Threshold Criteria.

\$2,000,000



Recreational Use

Proposal No. 21 – *Hazard and Debris Removal from the Housatonic River, Gloria Wesley*

- Remove hazards and debris in river from Fred Garner Park to Woods Pond for one year.
- Organize “Housatonic River Cleanup Sessions”.
 - ✓ This proposal does not pass Threshold Criteria because the application does not contain the information necessary to proceed with an evaluation (Threshold Criterion 1). This proposal will be considered a Project Idea.

\$9,238



Environmental Education and Outreach

Proposal No. 3 – *Housatonic Environmental Literacy Program (HELP) for the River*, Massachusetts Audubon Society

- Provide a comprehensive river education experience to all students in the Housatonic watershed.
- Offer a free summer canoe program.
- ✓ Passes Threshold Criteria.

\$874,842



Environmental Education and Outreach

Proposal No. 4 – *Housatonic River Museum*, City of Pittsfield

- Develop a museum for exploring the natural science of the Housatonic River watershed and examining the historical and ongoing relationship between humankind and the river.

✓ Passes Threshold Criteria.

\$298,100



Environmental Education and Outreach

Proposal No. 12 – *The River Institute*, Housatonic River Initiative

- provide an on-going forum for higher education research, training, public and secondary education, and information dissemination relating to natural resource protection and awareness.

✓ Passes Threshold Criteria.

\$217,880



Environmental Education and Outreach

Proposal No. 13 – *Berkshire Conservation Agent Program*,
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

– Provide technical assistance, training, and education
to municipal Conservation Commissions.

✓ Passes Threshold Criteria.

\$248,555



Environmental Education and Outreach

Proposal No. 14 – *Less Toxic Landscapes: A Healthier Housatonic River*, Center for Ecological Technology

- Utilize workshops, trainings, media, retail displays and social marketing techniques to address the water pollution caused by outdoor pesticide use.
- ✓ Passes Threshold Criteria.

\$216,540



Public Comment Period

Public Comment on Threshold Criteria accepted
until May 12, 2006.

Threshold Criteria Evaluation Comments
c/o Woodlot Alternatives, Inc.
30 Park Drive
Topsham, ME 04086
tchadwell@woodlotalt.com

(Subject line: Threshold Criteria Evaluation Comments)



Next Steps

1. Release Threshold Criteria Summary Document
2. Stage 2: Evaluation Criteria
 - Individual Review
 - Consensus Based Review
 - ✓ Relevance and Applicability of Project
 - ✓ Technical Merit
 - ✓ Project Budget
 - ✓ Socioeconomic Merit
3. Public Meeting: Results of Review Team Evaluations & Public Comment on Proposals



Project Schedule – subject to change

- **Apr 27: Results of Threshold Criteria**
- May: Review Team Begins Evaluation of Applications
- Release of FINAL Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA)
- July: Review Team Concludes Evaluation of Applications
- Aug: Public Meeting – Results of Review Team Evaluation
- Public Comments Due on Applications
- Sept: MA SubCouncil Determines Preferred Alternatives
- Oct: Release of DRAFT Restoration Plan (30-day review period)
- Nov: Public Meeting – DRAFT Restoration Plan
- Dec: Release of FINAL Restoration Plan
- Dec: Begin Funding Disbursement for Restoration Projects