

EPA Official Record

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From: "Stacy Minihane" <sminihane@btiweb.com>

To: Mike Marsh/R1/USEPA/US@EPA

Copy To: "Christopher Morris" <CMorris@apexcos.com>; "Chet Myers" <cmyers@apexcos.com>; "Eric Las" <elas@btiweb.com>

Delivered Date: 10/30/2012 08:37 PM EST

Subject: RE: revised planting table (Rivers End)

Thank you, Mike- Eric sent a separate email with the draft sketch earlier this evening.

Also, based on our discussion, we are re-characterizing the existing extent of salt marsh. As noted, our delineation represents the maximum extent of Salt Marsh vegetation; however, we will clarify that the jurisdictional salt marsh extends up to the HTL (or elevation 3.7'). Therefore, the salt marsh line will be relabeled as maximum extent of salt marsh vegetation. As discussed, impacts to accommodate the revised grading will be limited to areas above elevation 3.7, thereby avoiding salt marsh impacts in the southern portion of the site.

Regarding the "berm"- we had been using that term somewhat loosely as noted in our conversation. The existing topography is flat and then sloping down to the existing marsh. I see the portion of our cross section where it appeared that a berm was being created that you referred to in our phone conversation. The cross-sections will be updated to reflect the revised grading, and we will review them to try to ensure their clarity.

We will eliminate the high marsh island in the northern part of the site, as you suggested.

Please let us know what you think of the sketch, and also if you have any other questions based on this email.

Thank you,

Stacy H. Minihane, PWS

Associate

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BTI Email Signature.jpg

Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: marsh.mike@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:marsh.mike@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2012 6:19 PM
To: Stacy Minihane
Cc: Christopher Morris; Chet Myers; Eric Las
Subject: RE: revised planting table (Rivers End)

Stacy - Just wanted to let you know that I discussed the latest conceptual design for Rivers End Park with the Corps, and I believe we are all generally on the same page regarding the direction of the design. It's difficult to go over this kind of thing over the phone, so I suggest that in the interest of time you may (if you think this might be beneficial) want to send us a penciled in (or otherwise rough draft) conceptual drawing for what we discussed, to make sure there are no major misunderstandings about the concept.

Again, my conceptual plan was for "horseshoe" shaped contours, sloping high to low from south to north, with a "tongue" of lower elevations in the middle of the "horseshoe". Wetland planting zones should be established using the on-site wetlands as a reference site. Also, we acknowledge that to establish a functioning wetland system, it may be necessary to have some impacts to existing upper high marsh where the contours of the creation are tied in.

However, we want to assure that the design minimizes these impacts to the greatest degree possible while still being functional.

There still seems to be some confusion about the location of an existing berm... the plans dated 10/30/12 do not appear to indicate the presence of a berm, according to the existing grading contours. Are the depicted existing grades accurate?

Lastly, with this design creating a broader high marsh area toward the southern end of the site, we believe that the previously proposed high marsh island in the northern portion of the site should be replaced with low marsh. If you

think this is problematic, please call to discuss further.

Thanks,

Mike

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From: "Stacy Minihane" <sminihane@btiweb.com>
To: Mike Marsh/R1/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: "Christopher Morris" <CMorris@apexc.com>, "Chet Myers" <cmyers@apexc.com>, "Eric Las" <elas@btiweb.com>
Date: 10/30/2012 01:02 PM
Subject: RE: revised planting table (Rivers End)

Mike- please see the attached in-progress pdf of the grading to facilitate discussion. I will call you to discuss your below comments.

Thank you,

Stacy H. Minihane, PWS
Associate

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: marsh.mike@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:marsh.mike@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2012 11:45 AM
To: Stacy Minihane
Cc: Christopher Morris; Chet Myers; Eric Las
Subject: Re: revised planting table (Rivers End)

Stacy - Hopefully you are doing well after yesterday's hurricane.

This table is improved from the first draft. The table should note that the proposed elevation ranges are subject to adjustment in accordance with observations of the reference wetlands (existing on-site salt marsh).

Also both plans and cross sections should indicate planting zones for various species. Also, the existing salt marsh should be shown on plans and cross sections.

I also have some initial comments and questions about the revised plans submitted in your previous email (below) . I am hoping to discuss the plan revisions with the Corps this morning, so there may be some additional questions or comments to follow.

1. It would be helpful to have plans that show only the existing grading, features.etc. and the proposed grading features etc. I realize that this is a conceptual sketch, but both the Corps and I were having some difficulty discerning various elevations, etc., with the older grading contours and features (e.g., berms, etc.) shown.

2. It appears that the revised plan would involve grading within the existing salt marsh. Any work in the existing salt marsh should be avoided, with exception of the very small fringe areas in the northern end of the site that I discussed with Chris Morris at our meeting at EPA. But the revised design should ensure that all other existing salt marsh areas should not be impacted.

3. Please provide revised cross sections corresponding to the revised plans

4. With regard to your question about mitigation credit, we would give credit for any area that meets the definition of salt marsh - both high and low marsh.

5. Please confirm the HTL and MHW (3.71 and 2.61 feet (NGVD 1929), respectively, correct?), and indicate their location on plans and cross sections.

6. Please clarify the photo location. I assume the flag is on the post, although there appear to be two posts in the photo. Please clarify the elevation of the flagging, and your comment that the photo shows *Spartina alterniflora* extends beyond elevation ~2.0'. Assuming MHW is 2.61', I would expect *Spartina alterniflora* to grow at ~2.0' (and higher... up to ~MHW). The Corps had commented to us that they thought that target elevations may be higher than 2.0 feet. In any event, as noted before, it is our recommendation that the appropriate elevation ranges for various species be determined from using the existing on-site salt marsh as a reference site.

7. Please specify that 100% biodegradable materials will be used for erosion and sedimentation controls. The Corps noted that some erosion control materials include non-biodegradable structural elements.

8. Please clarify the design and function of the proposed fencing.

9. Plans should specify the removal of rip rap at the northern end of the site, and indicate salt marsh restoration/creation in that area.

10. Please clarify the purpose of the existing foundation at the northern end

of the site. Are there future plans to construct something on that foundation, and if so, what? Could future use at this foundation have an adverse impact on mitigation project?

I'll let you know if we have further comments or questions after I have spoken to the Corps.

Thanks,

Mike

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From: "Stacy Minihane" <sminihane@btiweb.com>
To: Mike Marsh/R1/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: "Christopher Morris" <CMorris@apexcos.com>, "Chet Myers" <cmyers@apexcos.com>, "Eric Las" <elas@btiweb.com>
Date: 10/30/2012 09:12 AM
Subject: revised planting table (Rivers End)

Good Morning, Mike-

Please find a revised planting table below, for your input. I believe this addresses your comments, but please advise as soon as possible if you have other changes. (Note: the colors, areas and plant numbers will be completed upon finalization).

Thank you-

Stacy H. Minihane, PWS
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Planting List

Legend

Tidal Regime

Elevation

Area (sf)

Plant Species

% Coverage/Spacing

Size

Color 1

Low Marsh
(Regular Inundation)

Up to El. 2.6'

#

Smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*)

100% at 1.5' on center, 2 culms per hole (___ plants)
plugs

Color 2a

High Marsh
(Periodic Inundation)

El. 2.6' - 3.2'

#

Salt meadow grass (*Spartina patens*)

60% at 1' on center (___ plants)

plugs

Spike grass (*Distichlis spicata*)

30% at 1' on center (___ plants)

plugs

Black grass (*Juncus gerardii*)

10% at 1' on center (___ plants)

Plugs

Color 2b

High Marsh
(Periodic Inundation)

El. 3.2' - 3.7'

#

Salt meadow grass (*Spartina patens*)

60% at 1' on center (___ plants)

plugs

Spike grass (*Distichlis spicata*)

30% at 1' on center (___ plants)

plugs

Black grass (*Juncus gerardii*)

10% at 1' on center (___ plants)

plugs

New England Coastal Salt Tolerant Grass Mix

100% at 1250 sf per pound

seed

Marsh elder (*Iva frutescens*)

___ plants @ 4' on center

2'-3'

Color 2c

High Marsh (Infrequent Inundation)

El. 3.7' - 4.5'

#

New England Coastal Salt Tolerant Grass Mix

100% at 625 sf per pound

seed

Seaside goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*)

25% at 950 sf per pound

seed

Marsh elder (*Iva frutescens*)

___ plants @ 4' on center

2'-3'

Color 3

Upland

El. 4.5' and up

#

New England Coastal Salt Tolerant Grass Mix

100% at 625 sf per pound

seed

Eastern showy aster (*Eurybia spectabilis*)

25% at 950 sf per pound

seed

Threadleaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata*)

25% at 950 sf per pound

seed

Beach plum (*Prunus maritima*)

___ plants at 6' on center

2'-3'

Northern bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*)

___ plants at 6' on center

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