

**Robinson Duck Farm County Park Habitat Restoration Work Group
Public Meeting**

**MEETING SUMMARY
March 12, 2009
Meeting Number 1**

Location: Southaven County Park Lodge, Victory Avenue, Brookhaven, New York

Start/End: 2:00 p.m. /4:30 p.m.

Attending: *Work Group/Participating Staff*

Thomas Isles, DeWitt Davies, Laretta Fischer, Michael Mulé, Susan Filipowich, John Pavacic, Nick Gibbons, Emily Fogarty, Ralph Borkowski, Elyse O'Brien, Kate Browning, Peter Scully, Rob Marsh, Dan Lewis, Kevin Jennings, Stephanie Larkin, Brian Braudis, Andrew Hinickle, Azucena Pone, Claire Goad, Thomas Williams

Consultants/Administrative Staff

Robert Grover, Keith Holley, Steven Handel, Kristen Ross, Bryan Devaux, Barbara DelGiudice

Others

Karen Blumer, Audrey Kessler, Robert Kessler, Peggy Judd, Robert Judd, Steve Terr

Materials

Distributed: Meeting Agenda; Robinson Duck Farm County Park Habitat Restoration Feasibility Study Overview; Habitat Restoration Feasibility Study at the Robinson Duck Farm County Park PowerPoint Presentation (hard copy); Work Group Member Contact List; Interested Parties Contact List.

Note: copies of above materials are available and can be obtained by request from Ms. Barbara DelGiudice (Barbara.Delgiudice@suffolkcountyny.gov/631-853-5111).

Welcome and Introductions

County Planning Director, Thomas Isles, began the meeting by delivering welcoming and introductory remarks.

Project Background and Goals

DeWitt Davies, gave a PowerPoint presentation describing project background and goals and a history of the duck farming industry in the County. He stated that here were two principal purposes for the Robinson Duck Farm Restoration Feasibility Study:

1. To enable informed and scientifically sound management decisions to be made regarding the Robinson Duck Farm; and
2. To guide the planning and physical restoration and future use of the Robinson Duck Farm site.

Michael Mulé, gave an overview on the RFP process and contract execution. The study is scheduled to be completed by February 2010.

Consultant Work Plan and Scope of Services

Robert Grover, Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (GP), gave a PowerPoint presentation, as follows:

- GPI Project team
- Work Plan Outline
 - Task 1 - Inventory and Map Site Conditions
 - Task 2 - Identify Environmental Conditions
 - Task 3 - Phase II Environmental Site Analysis
 - Task 4 - Past and Current Management Activities
 - Task 5 - Development Management Goals and Restoration Priorities
 - ◆ Task 1
 - Base map layers
 - Aerial photographs
 - Topography
 - Property lines
 - Cultural features
 - Buildings to remain
 - Buildings to be or already are demolished
 - Tidal wetlands
 - How property effected
 - Upland habitats
 - Pitch Pine - Oak Forest
 - Maritime Heathland

- Maritime grassland
- Cultural areas

Brian Devaux from P.W. Grosser Consulting discussed:

- ◆ Task 2
 - Observations from the site walkthrough
 - Former duck pond/lagoon site
 - Onsite sanitary systems
 - Former farm buildings
 - Former vehicle storage area
 - Residential buildings with fuel oil tanks
 - Engineers findings from site mapping
 - Data found in the Army Corps of Engineers reports
 - Suffolk County Data

- ◆ Task 3
 - Sub-surface soil samples to be conducted in all area of site.

B. Grover (GP) discussed the past and current management activities:

- ◆ Task 4
 - These are yet to be determined fully but will be studied further.

Steven Handel, Green Shield Ecology, Inc., discussed site management goals:

- ◆ Task 5
 - Site Management goals
 - Returning site to native species
 - Ecological walks, etc.
 - Site Habitat Restoration and Management Options
 - Native grasslands/meadows
 - Coastal shrublands/dunes
 - Woodlands
 - Ponds/Riparian Fringe

Work Group Comment

T. Isles: The study will conduct a scientific, systematic approach to evaluate the site. This evaluation will be used to describe opportunities for restoration.

John Pavacic (SC Parks Dept.): Discussed current site cleanup efforts and the identification of more active use areas.

Brian Braudis (Fish and Wildlife): Stated that invasives could be due to use of chemical fertilizers on site, and that such chemicals should not be used in the future. He also requested to be at the table to discuss future uses (i.e., interpretive trails).

Rob Marsh (DEC): Would like to see long term commitment to monitoring and

maintenance of the area.

Clair Goad (Friends of Wertheim): Would like to see nature trails as opposed to more active recreation.

Susi Ponce (Wertheim NWR): Stated that site has future potential and currently serves as woodcock breeding ground and deer forage area. She would also like to be involved with future management plans.

Tom Williams (Post Morrow): Interested in pursuing native grassland restoration on site, and would like to see management of the site integrated with management activities conducted at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge.

Ralph Borkowski (SCDPW): Expressed interest in program and sees potential for the site.

Public Comment

Karen Blumer:

- Concerned about treatment of invasive species and suggests not using chemical pesticides or herbicides.
- Would like to focus on use of local genotypes in restoration, and retain what native vegetation exists now at the site.
- Believes there should be no planting of non-local genotypes.

B. Grover (GP): responded that use of chemicals to control invasives is just one of the "tools" available in the "tool box" for site restoration actions.

Steve Terr (Seatuck): Stated that it was difficult to find sources for purchases of native plants on Long Island.

T. Isles: Stated that all meeting materials and project maps and reports will be posted on the project website. The next Work Group meeting was scheduled for June 10, 2009 and we will get back to everyone with specific time and location. (The date of the next Work Group meeting was subsequently changed to June 17, 2009.)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Project Website:

<http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Home/departments/planning/RobinsonDuckFarm.aspx>