

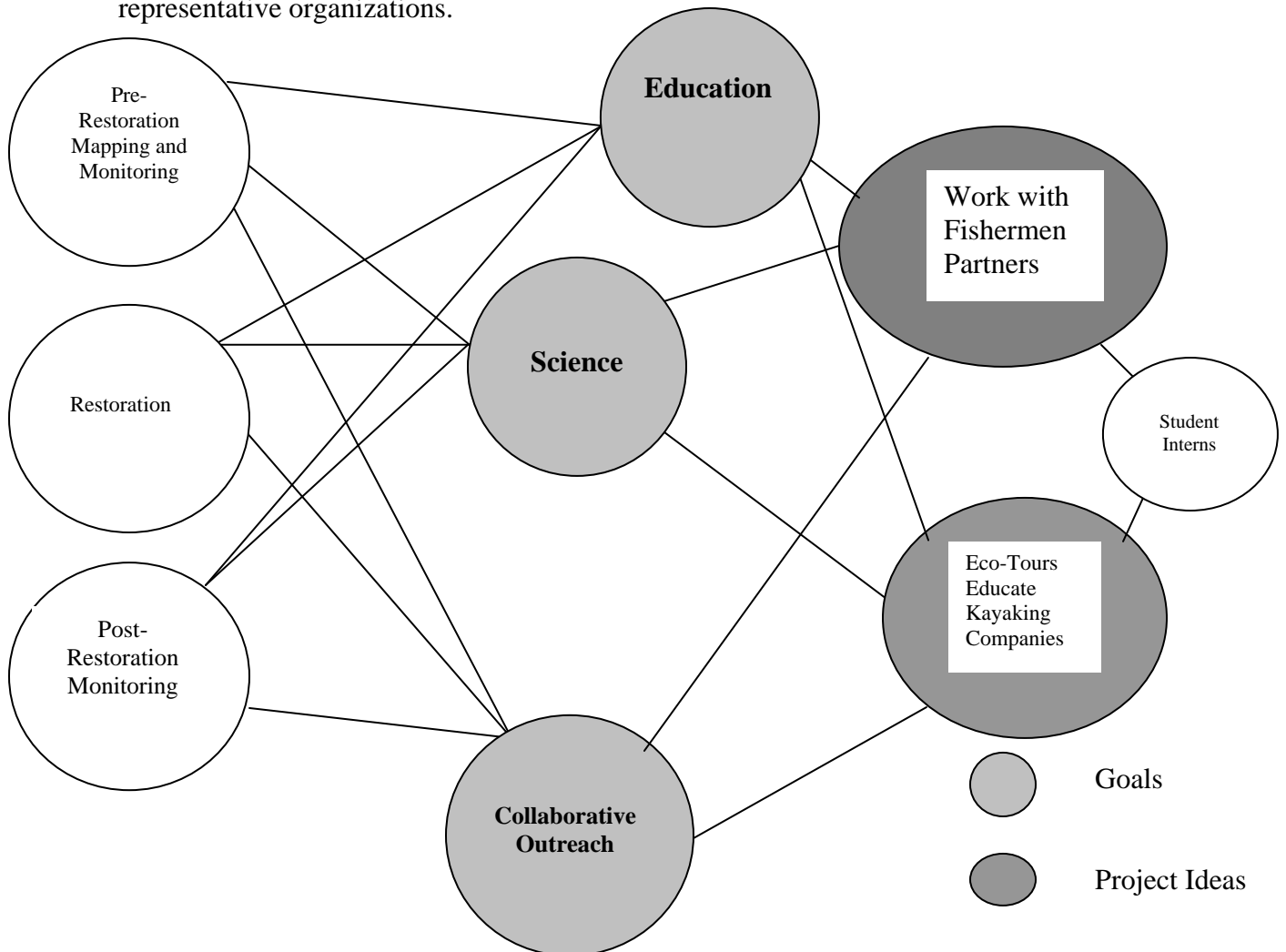
Minutes--Revised  
 Eelgrass Work Group  
 Agenda for 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting 5-7-2010  
 Meeting Place: MDI Bio Lab  
 Date and Time: Dahlgren Hall (attached to Maren Auditorium) 1-3 pm

Welcome and Introductions: In attendance, Fiona deKoning, Bob Pulver, Carol Korty, Billy Helprin, George Kidder, Jane Disney

We discussed Eelgrass Work Group Structure: We decided that the lead person or organization could shift. For now, Jane is taking a leadership role, taking notes etc. We may hold some meetings in different venues, but try to keep meeting location convenient for all. Maine Coast Heritage Trust space in Somesville would be equally convenient to everyone and we may meet there for our next meeting.

We discussed Goals for our group: We decided that we are interested in facilitating 1. 1.  
 1. Education  
 2. Collaborative Outreach (to other groups or organizations)  
 3. Science (Research and Restoration in Eelgrass Areas)

While discussing these goals we touched on a number of project ideas and conservation actions, some of which would involve outreach to individuals outside our group and representative organizations.



We recognized that all goals could be met through particular projects with particular partners, if we recognized the connections between them. The graphic above is preliminary, but could be used as a guide for prioritizing projects in the future.

We discussed the two project ideas in detail. Kayakers, fishermen, and residents could get involved in eelgrass mapping as an educational endeavor that also provides some information for scientists to consider. We discussed using Facebook as a networking site for people observing eelgrass, providing GPS units for residents who regularly kayak and who could look for eelgrass and report back. We could provide maps (with eelgrass areas, areas in question, areas with research and restoration efforts going on) to kayak groups and others. They could mark on maps and return or use some sort of interactive map on the not-yet-developed eelgrass website at MDIBL.

We discussed whether shellfish harvesters from the 7 towns involved in a joint shellfish ordinance might be able to participate in eelgrass mapping or restoration as part of their license agreement to provide a service to the community (right now, shoreline clean-up and shellfish conservation work are the only types of service options).

One local lobsterman, Phil Corson, has offered to log fish by-catch data and/or have student interns on his boat to help him collect these data. Perhaps we could engage a number of different fishermen in sharing information. Perhaps we could provide funds through grants for their effort.

We are still waiting for word from the Mussel Harvesters through Lee Hudson regarding proposed areas for eelgrass restoration. A map of areas was reviewed. The group agreed that the areas on the map are within the priority areas discussed at the March 30<sup>th</sup> stakeholder meeting and make sense for next steps in eelgrass restoration. We discussed whether areas in which restored eelgrass is not growing might be returned to harvesters. We all agreed that this would be the logical thing to do: continue to delineate those areas where eelgrass restoration is proving successful, re-draw the boundaries of restoration areas to reflect areas where eelgrass is truly recovering.

#### Projects for 2010

Funding through Constellation Energy to MDIBL will enable Lamoine to be a focus this summer. Plans are:

1. Monitoring water quality June July and August in Berry Cove, Lamoine Shore, Raccoon Cove, and Skillings River (MDIBL and LCC)
2. Mapping eelgrass with Lamoine Residents in Raccoon Cove and Skillings River (MDIBL and LCC and residents)

Funding through an existing 5-Star Habitat Restoration Grant will enable MDIBL to follow-up and initiate some new post-restoration work:

3. Continue to monitor water quality at Hadley Point (MDIBL)
4. Conduct preliminary eelgrass restoration experiments at Berry Cove and at Thomas Island (MDIBL and UMM).

5. Begin a fish census at Hadley Point (MDIBL and UMM).
6. Continue ocean current monitoring (MDIBL).

MDIBL is submitting a TNC/NOAA restoration grant May 21<sup>st</sup>. If funded, money will be available beginning in August to start pre-restoration water quality monitoring at Thomas Island, continue water quality monitoring at Berry Cove, and to initiate pre-restoration fish census work at Thomas Island and Berry Cove. MDIBL is also submitting a Fish America Foundation/NOAA grant June 7<sup>th</sup>. If funded, money will be available beginning in October to begin planning a 2011 eelgrass restoration season focused on sport fish.

The group suggested these additional projects:

7. Connect with fishermen who are interested in reporting fish by-catch in their traps this summer. It would be unfortunate to miss out on these data another year.
8. Initiate an Industry-Wide Conversation about the future direction of eelgrass restoration in Frenchman Bay. Include Great Bay Aquaculture, Maine Aquaculture Association, Acadia Aqua Farms, and Maine Sea Vegetable.