To: Chilmark Conservation Commission
From: Carlos Montoya
Native Plant Associates
Subject: Proposed wetland restoration/
planting plan for Paul Slavin, per
May 3, 2022 Zoom discussion
w/Chilmark ConCom
Date: 5/5/22

The following plan assumes that the trench in the wetlands has been filled and the debris piles removed.

Landscape prep for the restoration would involve, (a) manually raking to level out the planting area, as needed, and, (b) stripping seeded non-native grass in the work area, using a mechanical walk-behind sod cutter, with cut sod to be removed from the site.

The work area totals around 27,000 sf. For restoration planning purposes, it is roughly divided into two work areas: Area A, consisting of 1/3d of the total area, and Area B, consisting of the remaining 2/3ds.

The plant list consists of three kinds of wetland plants: woody native wetland plants; and Switchgrass, which thrives in both wetland and dry conditions; and wetland perennials.

It is estimated that total woody plant quantities will, be 305, and Switchgrass quantities will be 456. Perennials would number 35. Plant species and sizes are itemized on the site plan drawing, by Vineyard Land Surveying.

The concept is to create an appropriate native edge-effect along the existing wetland vegetation, resulting in a progressive transition from straight woody species to a mix of woody and grassy wetland plants. The objectives are twofold: (a) to maximize wetland plant diversity and, (b) to create a natural evolution of the plant mix proportions, as the restoration transition to the more upland parts of the work area.

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Sixty percent of Area A would be planted in woody native wetland plant species, to include Highbush Blueberry, Winterberry, Inkberry, Swamp Azalea, and Sweet Pepperbush. Forty percent would be planted in Switchgrass.

Thirty percent of Area B would be planted in native wetland woody plants. Seventy percent of Area B would be planted in Switchgrass.

Woody plants, and Switchgrass plants, in both areas, would be planted in roughly alternating groupings. Both woody and grass plants would be planted on 6' center, allowing the new plants to express their natural habit and not compete with and suppress each other, over time. Switchgrass, for example, maxes out at about 3.5 feet across, so that - planted on 6' center - there would be only a bit of overlap between any two plants. Ditto, the woody plants.

There will also be a two companion wet-meadow perennial species (Eupatorium) planted, to round out wetland habitat diversity: Boneset/ Eupatorium perfoliatum, and Joe Pye Weed/Eupatorium dubium, both native to MV.

The entire work area will by mulched in seasoned re-ground wood chip mulch (no landscape bark mulch). The objective is to help stabilize soil to prevent erosion in the early stages of establishment. It also creates an effective faux version of the leaf and twig litter that accumulate around plants in the wild, helping to create some buffering protection in the root zone against the high heat of summer, and freezing cold in the winter, during the project's establishment.

Maintenance will be minimal, if any (e.g., weeding for invasives, like Bittersweet and mugwort , as needed).