



# CAPE COD TIMES

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Opinion

## Kudos for agreement on Herring River project

Posted Jul 14, 2019 at 3:01 AM

I congratulate Wellfleet and the Cape Cod National Seashore for the new agreement on the Herring River Restoration Project (“Tidal flow project moving forward,” July 3, Page A3).

A few critics at a recent Select Board meeting stated the restoration project could create a financial liability for the town. However, based on my experience as a town administrator, selectman and congressional chief of staff, I believe the town and Seashore got it right - there is a greater financial liability in doing nothing.

The Herring River is a degraded water body. The watershed is in trouble. The river is on the federal and state lists of “impaired waters,” and towns with degraded waters are in violation of the Clean Water Act. The current restoration project has attracted millions in additional state and federal support. Doing nothing simply shifts the financial burden to Wellfleet taxpayers.

Cleaning up the Herring River should be viewed as an investment that will boost a shellfish industry that is the heart and soul of the local economy, creating good jobs and millions in local income.

The Seashore, Wellfleet officials and voters are to be applauded for this partnership. Well done!

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*The writer is chairman of the Cape Cod Conservation District.*

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