Background:

* FWS has been diligently working on an exchange for the past 7 years
* By policy, properties should be of roughly equal monetary value
  + The tract coming into FWS must be of greater ecological value
* Pink House is appraised at $425,000
  + Only ~5% of incoming properties in past 5 yrs fit within a suitable exchange value
* Pink House may need a new appraisal – but only if/when a suitable exchange parcel is identified
  + Meantime, we will pay the appraiser to perform a re-evaluation to assess whether the current appraisal's conclusion remains valid
* Since we last spoke, we evaluated 2 additional parcels (ME, MA) – both were found not to be viable
* Further complication is that neither restoration partner nor STPH owns lands to offer
  + A future deal would require the restoration partner to purchase the land coming into FWS, and then FWS would exchange directly with them
* For all above reasons, in general, the PH is *not* a good candidate for an exchange
* Ongoing FWS costs: building maintenance, staff time and resources, plus FWS covers appraisal, title, survey, etc.
* We have made a good faith effort and will continue to do so, but pursuing this strategy indefinitely is not sustainable.

Questions:

* K. Bovio: can the exchange parcel come from another state? CA?
  + MH: No, preferably within the state, but given we’ve tried that without success to date, we’re also looking more broadly within our FWS region
* K. Bovio: Could volunteers assist with maintenance /upkeep?
  + Willing to entertain for certain things, like grounds maintenance. But there are known contaminants issues in the building so generally not suitable for other tasks (e.g., carpentry)
* V. Coolidge: Was/could State Rep Kristin Kassner be invited?
  + LM-H: yes, just forwarded invite. MH will include in future discussions.
* K. Bovio: what is timeframe now?
  + MH: once we receive report of whether appraisal is valid – hopefully within 2 weeks – we will know more. If not valid and a new appraisal is required, need to get back together and have a more difficult conservation on how to proceed.

MH: Other business: I’ll be in touch about a future groundbreaking to celebrate the $4M NFWF grant coming to our state and local partners for marsh restoration.