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UMRLAC, PO Box 3019, BosCAWEN, NH 03303

UMRLAC Meeting Minutes for February 11, 2008
Northfield Town Hall; Northfield, NH

Members present: Michele Tremblay (Boscawen), Steve Landry (Boscawen), Gary Lynn (Bow), Krista Crowell (Bow), Bill Dawson (Northfield), Tucker Noack (Franklin), Mary Lee (Northfield), Robert Wyatt (Concord), Harry Anderson (Northfield), Anne Emerson (Canterbury), and Rick Chormann (Concord)

Members absent: Nancy Roy (Canterbury) and Alan Bartlett (Concord)

Other present: Sara Cairns (Natural Heritage Bureau)

The Chair of UMRAC, Michele Tremblay, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. After members reviewed the consent portion of the agenda, UMRAC voted to accept the consent agenda. The March meeting will be in Boscawen, the April meeting will be held in Bow and the May meeting will be held in Canterbury.

Treasurer's Report

Krista Crowell submitted the Treasurer's report for December and January. UMRAC voted to place the Treasurer's reports on file. Krista noted that our status as a government instrumentality/non-profit exempts UMRAC from filing a tax return. Yellahoose (Jim Cradock) was paid \$600 for his work on our website and UMRAC reimbursed the cost of the bug night mailing and for shipping bio-samples to EcoAnalysts. Michele will bill Bow, Concord, and Franklin for their support payment in the near future.

Membership

This meeting was Mary Lee's last meeting. UMRAC thanked her for her service to the committee.

Upper Merrimack Monitoring Program (UMMP)

Weather related issues (one of our 33 storms this winter) resulted in the cancellation of the February 6 bug night introductory session. Weather was more cooperative for the next session. Steve sent 24 samples to EcoAnalysts for identification and was very impressed with the service and pricing provided. Steve will compare the results from the professionals and our volunteer identification results. In general, the agreement between EcoAnalysts and volunteer data was within a couple bugs; in a couple cases, the results were off by about 50 bugs (Steve will check to see if there were multiple vials for those particular sample locations that explain the more significant deviations). EcoAnalysts billed DES and will need to invoice UMRAC directly for

the \$1,560 for sample identification. Steve will work with EcoAnalysts to generate a final price and work scope for assistance with our 10+ year data report.

Guest Speakers

Sara Cairns gave UMLAC a presentation on the Natural Heritage Inventory. Her presentation highlighted the data that is available on rare species and exemplary natural communities and how to interpret the information that is provided. She also provided UMLAC with a spreadsheet listing the rare species and exemplary natural communities located within 200 feet of the UMLAC communities' rivers. After the presentation, UMLACers were well versed on everything from Sessile-fruited Arrowhead to the State's Plant Protection Act.

Efforts continue on lining up future speakers for a variety of river related topics. Bill Dawson will confirm with Arlene Allen that she will be able to give UMLAC a presentation on the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act. Robert will work on obtaining a speaker that can discuss the impact of climate change on the river and Amy Smagula is set to speak to UMLAC on invasive species.

Miscellaneous

- 1) Robert Wyatt made a very good suggestion on an approach for updating our website. Robert suggested that each of the members review the website in turn and provide feedback on parts of the website that need updating. Robert will take the first turn.
- 2) FERC approved an extension to the deadline for finalization of the PSNH's recreation plan to allow more time to work with the Fish and Wildlife Service on whitewater releases. FERC also approved the operations plan for the three PSNH dams on the Merrimack.
- 3) The SPNHF wetland restoration final report was received recently. UMLAC will need to look over the report.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.
Submitted by Gary Lynn