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UMRLAC, PO Box 3019, Boscawen, NH 03303

UMRLAC Meeting Minutes for January 13, 2014
Bessie Rowell Community Center, Franklin

Members present: Michele Tremblay (Boscawen), Steve Landry (Boscawen), Gary Lynn (Bow), Krista Crowell (Bow), Nita Tomaszewski (Franklin), Donna Liolis (Franklin), Nancy Roy (Canterbury), Madeline Mineau (Concord), Rick Chormann (Concord), Harry Anderson (Northfield), Wayne Ives (Franklin), and Bill Dawson (Northfield)

Members absent: David Kirkpatrick (Bow), Anne Emerson (Canterbury), and Tucker Noack (Franklin)

Others Present: Christy Liolis, Renee Bourdeau

The Chair of UMRLAC, Michele Tremblay, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. UMRLAC voted to accept the consent agenda. The next meeting will be **February 10, 2014** in Northfield.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report for December was circulated, approved, and placed on file. Checkmate, Briar Hydro and Webster Valve made their adopt-a-site payments. The only outstanding support payment is Northfield. Michele was reimbursed \$1.21 for postage. UMRLAC voted in favor of the proposed budget for 2014. Michele will post the budget online. One of the significant line items for the budget is the replacement of the biomonitoring program sieve buckets with more durable stainless steel and wire mesh buckets. The legs keep breaking on the less expensive plastic buckets that were purchased previously. There is also funding included for a Go Pro camera for the development of a training video.

Membership

Michele indicated that Donna, Nita and David all need to be re-nominated. She encouraged these valued UMRLAC members to contact their municipality about re-nomination. Krista volunteered to call David and discuss re-nomination. Michele handed out UMRLAC calling cards for use when recruiting new members.

Renee Bourdeau Presentation

Renee worked with UNH professor Tom Ballesteros on a graduate student project that involved analysis of UMRLAC's biomonitoring data. Renee used a variety of metrics to analyze data from the 1995 to 2008 timeframe. Her analysis strongly suggested that there is value in collecting site samples from duplicate rock baskets. She noted that the literature suggested that 3 to 5 duplicate samples would be optimal and that there was still significant improvement when going from two to three samples. Her data also suggested the possibility of a slow decline in river water quality; however, this could also be related to the reduction in the number of duplicate sample analyses used by UMRLAC or it could be due to an increase in impervious surface or other

factors. Another interesting result of her analysis is that the Upper Merrimack River quality was typically fair; however, there were a significant number of sensitive organisms at each site based on the EPT scores. UMLAC believes the river is doing fairly well based on the EPT scores given that large stretches of the river that are impounded, there are multiple wastewater treatment system discharges and a fair amount of urban drainage. Finally, Renee's literature survey suggested that family level identification is most appropriate for volunteer oriented biomonitoring programs.

UMLAC intends to reconvene our Technical Advisory Committee (potential membership of Steve, Michele, Wayne, Madeline and Rick) to consider potential changes to our biomonitoring program. These changes could include revision to our approach on replicate samples, updating our habitat evaluations, etc. Adding an additional replicate to a site, for example, might make it easier to determine whether there has been an actual decline in river water quality or whether some less numerous species were missed because replicates were eliminated.

Guest Speakers/Winter Public Event

Michele indicated that the Saint Paul's School is willing to host a showing of the Gimme Green movie. UMLAC will contact the following potential panelists to lead a discussion after the showing of the movie: Kathy Neil, UNH Cooperative Extension, Brittany Philips, an environmentally responsible landscaper, and Ken Jordan, a realtor and Concord Monitor columnist. Bill will contact Kathy, Steve will contact Brittany and Nancy will contact Ken. UMLAC will suggest 2/6, 2/13 and 2/20 to the Saint Paul's School as possible movie screening dates. The movie screening would start at 7 PM and the discussion would end by 8:30 PM. Saint Paul's is willing to provide snacks. Similar to last year, there will be online registration for the event using the capabilities of Eventbrite.

Upper Merrimack Monitoring Program (UMMP)

Steve discussed the UMMP bug night schedule with UMLAC. Bug nights will be every Wednesday at the Saint Paul's School from January 22 through April 23 with the exception of March 5. Steve noted that all of the rock baskets have been retrieved except Site 11. At this point, it is impractical to retrieve the Site 11 rock basket. Renee's presentation revived talk about reconvening the technical advisory committee to discuss the QA plan and whether any changes to the biomonitoring procedures should be made such as the number of replicates, etc. Steve and Michele will follow up on having a technical advisory committee meeting.

Project Proposals, Permits, and Complaints

Michele discussed the Sewalls Falls Bridge project in Concord. The concern with that project is that there is legislation proposed (HB1145) that would remove conservation easement protections from a parcel of land. This slice of land would then be used for the bridge construction project. This seems to establish a precedent where piecemeal legislation will be used whenever someone does not like conservation easement restrictions. UMLAC will comment on this legislation and related CORD proposal. We are concerned about whether the purchase price funds will be reused for conservation purposes, whether the legislation is necessary when downstream land might be available for this use without disturbing the conservation easement, whether it is possible to engineer another solution to the bridge upgrade without removing land from conservation and whether establishing this type of precedent is appropriate.

Executive Health Care submitted an alteration of terrain (AOT) permit application for the redevelopment of the Racquet Club in Concord. The AOT permit application includes a request for a waiver on the amount of stormwater that is infiltrated at the site based on the fact that this is a redevelopment project which will improve stormwater runoff by treating the first flush of stormwater. The project will put a bubble over the outdoor tennis courts, add medical office space, and upgrade the existing parking area. There will be 147,530 sq ft of total disturbed land, 22,780 sq ft of impervious cover added and 303,330 sq ft of undisturbed land. UMLAC will comment on the proposal. Comments might include: 1) clarification of the disturbed/undisturbed/new impervious surface numbers since the numbers don't appear to add up, 2) request for down facing lighting, 3) recommendation to use a Snow Pro certified operator, 4) minimization of the use of bark mulch and creation of infiltration islands to minimize runoff and 5) concern that construction will take place within 50 feet of the bluff (verify that this complies with Concord's restrictions on construction near bluffs). Michele will draft the comment letter and will circulate the draft letter to UMLAC before finalization.

Miscellaneous

- 1) Nita will be the January website reviewer.
- 2) Michele recognized Gary for being selected as the employee of the year at the Department of Environmental Services.
- 3) The State's Rivers Management Advisory Committee is evaluating a statutory change. They would like UMLAC to host the other Local Advisory Committees (LACs) to discuss the proposed change. We would host the LACs at our March meeting in Boscawen. Our meeting may start early so that UMLAC can complete our regular business before the meeting. Watch the agenda for any changes in meeting time or location necessary to accommodate this combined meeting.
- 4) Our February meeting will include a guest speaker on climate change (Chris Skoglund).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM. Minutes submitted by Gary Lynn