



Boscawen
Bow
Canterbury
Concord
Franklin
Northfield

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UMRLAC Meeting Minutes for October 15, 2018
Northfield Town Offices, Northfield NH

Members present: Michele Tremblay (At Large), Steve Landry (At Large), Krista Crowell (Bow), Gary Lynn (Bow), Gary Lemay (Concord), Wayne Ives (Franklin), Adrienne Hutchinson (Canterbury), Mike Hansen (Bow), Anne Dowling (Canterbury), Nita Tomaszewski (Franklin) Jeffrey Perkins (Franklin), and Thomas Gilmore (Boscawen).

Members absent: Donna Liolis (Franklin), Rick Chormann (Concord), and Ashley Warner (Northfield).

Others present: Professor Alison Watts (University of New Hampshire)

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 **November 19, 2018 in Boscawen.**

Minutes

The meeting minutes were approved.

Membership

Nita reapplied for membership and Franklin declined to nominate her. UMRLAC voted to endorse her application as a member at large to take advantage of her knowledge of local permitting issues and connection to the Northern Rail Trail organization. UMRLAC was also pleased to welcome our newest member, Jeffrey Perkins from Franklin.

Treasurer's Report

Krista submitted the Treasurer's report for August and September. She noted that Webster Valve is the only outstanding adopt-a-site sponsor donation. She noted that she can't attend the November meeting and offered that someone else could be Treasurer next term, if they so desired. Krista indicated that she could return as Treasurer, if no one else would like to assume those duties. UMRLAC approved expenses for the UMMP volunteer last night pizza event. Krista reimbursed Michele for \$7.45 for postage and \$131.06 for the volunteer pizza. Krista also noted that \$7,000 was shifted to the savings account from checking and that the report included a manual correction to a \$350 duplicate deposit of Elektrisola's adopt a site deposit.

Bylaws

The proposed revised bylaws were modified to add non-voting associate membership positions. This will provide another opportunity for expanded participation. The proposal will be voted on during the November meeting.

CNHRPC Brownfields Advisory Committee (Mike Hansen)

No changes, however, the Brownfields Advisory Committee will be meeting again in a couple of weeks.

FERC Updates

Gary Lemay has not looked at the Lakeport hydroelectric dam re-licensing document yet; he has until December, however. He reviewed the Lowell dam re-licensing plans and noted that Fish and Wildlife is very interested in fish passage (shad, herring and eel migration). There is a 60-day comment period on the Lowell study plan. Gary thought the study plan was good and noted that it included elements such as telemetry studies on fish movement.

Upper Merrimack Monitoring Program (UMMP)

The St Paul's contract discussions are proceeding favorably and the UMMP program hopes to be able to set and advertise the 2019 bug night schedule soon. The identification keys still need to be redone, as well as finishing the insect identification work from last year. UMLAC indicated that it would be reasonable to send some of the unfinished vials out for professional ID both as a QA check and a mechanism of reducing the ID backlog. Steve will obtain pricing and discuss the idea at the next meeting. The sites 3 and 4 sponsor (the wastewater treatment plant in Franklin) may participate in the ID work this year. This will be a nice complement to their site sampling work.

Guest Speaker

Alison Watts from UNH was our guest speaker on the use of DNA analysis in streams. Alison is a geologist and water resources engineer. She spoke about eDNA (environmental DNA, i.e., DNA that is loose in the environment) and its uses as a new technology for biomonitoring. Essentially, a sample is taken from a stream and is quickly analyzed for DNA. The DNA results are then matched with existing databases of various species of fish, animals, bacteria, etc. The technique is an interesting, sensitive way to track the presence of threatened species or invasive species and to evaluate the overall health of an ecosystem. Some weaknesses of this powerful new tool are: 1) false positives (many species have similar DNA and results can match portions of the shared DNA profiles resulting in multiple matches), 2) inability to quantify the population size of the detected species and 3) difficulty in determining the exact location of the identified organism (the DNA will be carried downstream a significant distance from the organism actual location). The presentation was thought provoking and there may be an opportunity to partner with UNH on a future freshwater DNA study (most of the work in New Hampshire to date, as been saltwater work).

Projects

The ARM (Aquatic Resource Mitigation) Fund requested comments on projects that are being considered for funding in the Merrimack watershed. UMLAC will comment on SPNH's proposed preservation of the Stillhouse Forest. This 215-acre conservation effort is located in Canterbury and Northfield and would protect 1 mile of undeveloped Merrimack River shorefront. The land includes two oxbows, native brook trout, 80% of the land is in well head protection areas and 30% ranked in tier 1 or 2 of Fish and Games habitat designation. UMLAC will send comments supporting the project to Lori Sommers of DES by the 10/17 deadline.

After a discussion of the proposed minimum instream flow rules, UMLAC voted to send a letter support of the rules to DES. Steve and Wayne recused themselves from the vote due to their professional involvement with the rule making effort.

UMRLAC received a permit application for a City of Concord stormwater rehabilitation project (Clark Street, Tenney Street, and Roger Avenue). The plans have been revised and approved by DES.

UMRLAC will provide comments on the City of Concord’s alteration of terrain permit application for the proposed recreation improvements (turf field and new dog park) planned for Terrill Park. UMLAC will recommend that the lighting plan consider the Dark Skies Initiative guidelines and that erosion control measures be protective of wildlife. UMLAC thought that the stormwater best management practices (BMP) provisions were very good as well as the proposed O&M manual for maintaining the BMPs. The comment deadline is November 12th.

The City of Concord also applied for an aboveground storage tank permit for two 310-gallon day tanks for its wastewater treatment facility. UMLAC will send a thank you note for providing the permit for our review noting that we have no comments.

Miscellaneous

The November meeting will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Rivers Protection and Management program and UMLAC’s 28th anniversary. UMLAC will invite DES rivers program staff and former UMLAC members for cake and the celebration.

Summary of Assignments:

Michele	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare October agenda. - Work on St Paul’s School bug night contract. - Present the final by-law revision document for consideration. - Prepare letter of support for minimum instream flow rules and comments on the Terrill Park AOT permit application.
Steve	- Obtain pricing and prepare proposal for professional ID of some of last year’s benthic organism samples.
Gary	- Prepare minutes.
Gary Lemay	- Look over the Lakeport Hydro re-licensing documents.
Krista	- Prepare the monthly Treasurer’s report.

Minutes submitted by Gary Lynn.