



Boscawen  
Bow  
Canterbury  
Concord  
Franklin  
Northfield

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PO Box 3019 | Denacook, NH 03303

## UMRLAC Meeting Minutes for November 9, 2020 Virtual Meeting via Conference Call

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

*Members absent:* Jeffrey Perkins (Franklin), Nita Tomaszewski (At Large), Rick Chormann (Concord), Donna Liolis (Franklin), and Ashley Warner (Northfield).

*Others present:* Tom Schurman (Outside Unlimited)

The Chair of UMRLAC, Michele Tremblay, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, after reading the Governor's Executive Order 2020-04 and his supporting memo on virtual meetings. UMRLAC voted to accept the consent agenda. The next meeting will be another virtual meeting held on **December 14, 2020**.

### Minutes

The August minutes were approved.

### Ft Eddy Trash and Invasive Species

Tom Schurman of Outside Unlimited discussed a proposed trash and invasive species removal project behind Fort Eddy Plaza. Mr. Schurman is working with DES, the Department of Agriculture, and the City of Concord on the project. His client is the owner of the plaza. There are eight invasive species and about \$10K worth of trash removal from homeless camps that need to be addressed. The most problematic of the invasive species include oriental bittersweet and two types of buckthorn. The plan involves the removal of dangerous ash trees (weakened by bittersweet and emerald ash borer), cutting back of invasive species, chemical treatment of the invasive species the following year and then replanting of native species (silver maple, sugar maple and dogwoods were highlighted). Garland 4 ultra will be used for the chemical treatment. There will be three years of continuing maintenance to ensure that the seed repository of invasive species does not result in invasive reestablishment. The company hopes that the project will become a prototype and will eventually expand to nearby areas such as the Everett Arena area, which has bittersweet and Japanese knotweed problem. Prior to work, the company will obtain permits from Shoreland protection as well as the Department of Agriculture for the herbicide application. UMRLAC indicated that it would send a letter indicating no any additional comments or concerns at this point in time.

### Membership

Rick Chormann's appointment expired in October. Ashley's appointment expires in December. Donna and Wayne recently had their appointments renewed. Numerous members will have their appointments expire during 2021. Those renewals will be addressed next year.

### Treasurer's Report and Financial Issues

Five Adopt-a-River Site payments were received (including GZA's 2020 payment). The Treasurer's reports for September and October were approved and placed on file. Krista will prepare a draft budget for 2021 for consideration at the next meeting. Krista will include money in the budget for web conference call meetings (discussion purposes). Gary Lemay will inquire with the City of Concord on the potential use of Concord's account for virtual meetings. Although some problems were experienced with the free conference call software used for this month's meeting, everyone was able to participate in some fashion. The Canterburians had trouble due to bandwidth issues but could participate by phone or without video.

### Guest Speaker

Michele suggested that it would be valuable to have a guest speaker on alteration of terrain (AOT) permits. DES does presentations of this nature but Michele will need to look into whether DES would be interested in doing a presentation for our size of group.

### CNHRPC Brownfields Advisory Committee (Mike Hansen)

CNHRPC is in the process of applying for an additional \$300K follow up grant on top of the previously awarded \$700K. CNHRPC used the previously awarded grant money to assess 80 properties and plans to use the additional funds to address a junkyard in Chichester and the path of the proposed rail trail in Allenstown. Boscawen is also applying for a \$200K cleanup grant for use at the Allied Leather tannery. The Allied Leather tannery cleanup grant would address floodplain contamination and encapsulate an area of contamination in the uplands portion of the site.

### FERC Licensing (Gary Lemay)

Gary Lemay was notified of a 15-day delay in the development of a study plan for the three Contoocook River dams. A primary focus of the plan as well as the involved agencies is fish passage (alewives, eel, etc).

### Upper Merrimack Monitoring Program (UMMP)

All rock baskets were retrieved, although the Pemigewasset rock basket was vandalized and all of the rocks removed. Steve kick netted the Pemigewasset rock basket site to ensure that a sample was collected from this key site. No Bug Nights are contemplated to 2021 because of Covid. There are opportunities for trusted solo volunteers to complete identification of backlogged samples.

### Projects

Hoyle Tanner sent an information request to UMLAC on behalf of NH DOT regarding the planned I-89 at Bow Junction culvert maintenance project. Two culverts will be addressed by the project, one that equalizes water levels by connecting a wetlands to the Turkey River and a second that routes water from an unnamed stream through the interchange. Hoyle Tanner is soliciting feedback on potential wetlands mitigation projects that can be completed in lieu of an ARM fund donation as well as any other relevant project issues. UMLAC will respond with comments on water quality improvement needs, stormwater management issues, and site stabilization during work. UMLAC members need to forward comments to Michele by November 16th for possible inclusion in the response letter.

### UMWA Update

The site specific project plan for the Turkey River restoration project has been prepared and is being reviewed by UMWA. After the internal review, the plan will be forwarded to the consultant and the DES project manager for review and comment. CEI (UMWA's consultant) has prepared Turkey River watershed maps. These maps will be broken into sub watershed maps and will be used during ground surveys that will be conducted to evaluate impacts and restoration needs. CEI has also provided survey sheets for organization of survey team observations, photos, and field notes. UMWA's "Turkey Talk" group will also discuss whether there are potential Turkey River watershed wetlands mitigation projects that might be completed by NH DOT as mitigation for their I-89 culvert project.

### Miscellaneous

DES will roll out its new and improved website in the near future. Gary Lynn mentioned the recent Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund Commission (Commission) meeting news. The Commission is supporting a Department of Agriculture (NRCS) grant application for \$9 million over five years for New Hampshire land acquisition and conservation projects. The trust fund would provide part of the required 1 to 1 grant match. Grant partners include SPNHF, DES, Fish and Game, CT River Conservation Trust, Southeast Land Trust, Merrimack River Watershed Council, etc. The Commission also approved a project that will preserve 1,200 ft of Merrimack River frontage.

Tom and Michele reported on the August and October sessions on proposed changes to the AOT rules. The changes have been proposed to streamline endangered species impact evaluations. DES has proposed that the evaluations be conducted by a self certified wildlife biologist. Procedures related to self certification as well as the recently posted proposed qualifications for the wildlife biologists are very important to successful implementation of this proposed rule change. Michele will draft comments on the AOT rulemaking for discussion during the December meeting.

### Summary of Assignments:

Michele	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Contact DES (AOT section) about potential presentation.</li><li>- Draft letter on the AOT pre-rule making approach.</li><li>- I-89 culvert project response letter preparation.</li><li>- Draft no further comment email on Ft Eddy project.</li></ul>
Steve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Find a speaker on the culvert assessment program topic.</li></ul>
Mike	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Continue to track Brownfields Advisory Committee.</li></ul>
Gary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Prepare minutes.</li></ul>
Gary Lemay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Continue to track FERC licensing activities.</li><li>- Draft generic letters for AOT, shorelands, and wetlands permits.</li></ul>
Krista	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Prepare the monthly Treasurer's report.</li><li>- Prepare 2021 budget.</li></ul>

*Minutes submitted by Gary Lynn.*