



Boscawen
Bow
Canterbury
Concord
Franklin
Northfield

PO Box 3019 | Denacook, NH 03303

UMRLAC Meeting Minutes for March 8, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Conference Call

Members present: Michele Tremblay (At Large), Steve Landry (At Large), Gary Lynn (Bow), Anne Dowling (Canterbury), Gary Lemay (Concord), Wayne Ives (Franklin), Tom Gilmore (Boscawen), Adrienne Hutchinson (Canterbury) and Mary Lee (Northfield)

Members absent: Jeffrey Perkins (Franklin), Ashley Warner (Northfield), Krista Crowell (Bow), Mike Hansen (Bow), Rick Chormann (Concord), Donna Liolis (Franklin) and Nita Tomaszewski (At Large).

Others present: Joseph Schmidl (NH DES)

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 memorandum on virtual meetings. UMRLAC voted to accept the consent agenda (roll call unanimous vote). The next meeting will be another virtual meeting to be held on **April 12, 2021**.

Minutes

The February minutes and consent agenda were approved via roll call vote.

Membership

Michele noted that Rick Chormann and Ashley Warner's memberships have expired. She has attempted to contact them but their status is unknown. Pending a response, their membership to UMRLAC has been dropped. Gary and Krista's membership is valid until May, Adrienne until July, Gary LeMay until April and Jeffrey Perkins until October.

Treasurer's Report

No Treasurer's report was available due to the timing of the arrival of the banking statements.

Brownfields Advisory Committee.

No significant change in status.

FERC Update

The three Contoocook River dam relicensing projects are moving toward field studies this summer. NH DES comments have been issued on the proposed field studies and the owner is addressing comments in a cooperative fashion. To facilitate UMRLAC's understanding of the active FERC projects, Gary Lemay will send a list of active relicensing projects to UMRLAC members including the project name and permit numbers.

Guest Speaker

Wayne Ives and Joe Schmidl provided a very informative presentation on the state's efforts to create a minimum instream flow regulatory system. The presentation provided an overview of

minimum in stream flow program developments and the extensive field work planned for this year. Two rivers have water management plans in place (Souhegan and Lamprey Rivers) and two more are currently being worked on (Cold and Warner Rivers). The next rivers in the queue are the lower Ashuelot, Upper Pemigewasset and the Isinglass. The field work is required to define minimum in stream flow protection criteria as well as to evaluate whether the criteria and water management plans, once established, are sufficiently protective. The field studies will include electrofishing plus temperature, conductivity and flow data logging.

UMRLAC discussed potential future presentations. Steve suggested a presentation on stormwater utilities. Gary Lemay will contact David Cedarholm (City of Concord) to gauge his interest in reprising his recent, relevant workshop presentation. His presentation was on Concord's feasibility and economic impact analysis of replacing Concord's stormwater fees with a stormwater utility. Michele suggested a presentation on the state's wildlife action plan. The presentation could discuss how the plan was developed, what the plan data drivers include and how the plan is updated. She suggested a Fish and Game Department speaker.

Upper Merrimack Monitoring Program (UMMP)

The 2018 aquatic insect sample ID has been completed by Max Maynard. Steve is working on the completion of the 2019 samples. The biggest concern is how to address the 2020 raw samples. These samples must be sorted prior to ID work. UMRLAC discussed whether to send the samples to a commercial lab or to use volunteers working in a remote capacity. The biggest single issue is how to maintain QA/QC standards while having volunteers working remotely. Gary Lynn volunteered to sort samples when Steve and Michele establish remote work protocols.

Projects

Steve updated UMRLAC on the status of the alteration of terrain (AOT) permit application for the Mojalaki Solar Array in Franklin. NH DES sent out a comment letter on the permit application which included a request that UMLAC's comments be addressed. A RRG Holdings in Bow Shoreland protection permit application was discussed. It was determined that the site was outside of UMRLAC's jurisdiction (too far downstream). Michele will send a short note thanking them for the notice but indicating it was beyond our purview. Finally, UMRLAC received a notification that sludge will be applied at the Highway View Farm. UMRLAC has no ability to comment on this due to a regulation change.

UMWA Update

UMWA made progress on setting goals for the Turkey River restoration project during a recent public meeting. Phosphorus is the key nutrient for freshwater systems and setting a phosphorus goal will help focus restoration efforts. UMWA will discuss and vote on the proposed phosphorus goal at their next meeting ("Turkey Talk" conference call held every second Tuesday of the month). There is no NH standard for phosphorus; however, Vermont has a standard that is relevant to the types of river systems that are present in NH. The relevant Vermont standard is being considered for the Turkey River project. Once the standard is set, potential projects to address phosphorus issues can be evaluated and prioritized. These projects are then good candidates for state and federal grant funding. Steve discussed the project with Martha Drucker, City of Concord Engineer. She will provide UMWA with Concord's stormwater master plan and their list of proposed stormwater projects. Martha Drucker was very interested in obtaining potential grant funding to assist with their stormwater projects.

Summary of Assignments

Michele	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prepare March UMLAC meeting agenda.- Respond to the RRG Holdings Shoreland permit application.- Follow up on the Wildlife Action Plan presentation idea.
Steve	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Continue efforts to address 2019 and 2020 UMMP samples.
Mike	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Continue to track the Brownfields Advisory Committee.
Gary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prepare minutes.
Gary Lemay	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Continue to track FERC licensing activities.- Send out a list of names and permit numbers of active FERC dam projects.- Draft generic letter on shorelands and wetlands permits.- Ask David Cedarholm about presenting on Concord's stormwater utility FS.
Krista	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prepare Treasurer's report.

Minutes submitted by Gary Lynn.