



Boscawen
Bow
Canterbury
Concord
Franklin
Northfield

PO Box 3019 | Denacook, NH 03303

UMRLAC Meeting Minutes for April 8, 2019
Northfield Town Hall, Northfield NH

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

Members absent: Jeffrey Perkins (Franklin), Rick Chormann (Concord), and Ashley Warner (Northfield).

Others present: Mary Lee (former and prospective Northfield member), Kristi Liolis and Matt Schwartz (prospective Concord member)

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 **May 13, 2019 in Franklin.**

Minutes

The March meeting minutes were approved.

Membership

Anne Dowling has been reappointed for a three-year term. The term for Mike Hanson has expired; his paperwork has been submitted to the town of Bow and is awaiting Selectboard action. Donna will be returning the financial disclosure form required by the State of NH soon. Michele has not heard back from Ashley yet on her financial disclosure form. There is a bill before the legislature, currently in conference committee, that changes the LAC appointment authority to the Rivers Management Advisory Committee. If passed, the legislation would exempt LACs from the financial disclosure form requirement.

Treasurer's Report and Financial Issues

The Treasurer's report for March was approved and placed on file. The draft annual budget was unanimously passed. Steve requested reimbursement for Bug Night related expenses (denatured alcohol purchase and \$14.20 for sample vial shipment to Rhithron). His reimbursement request is covered by the approved annual budget. Krista is in the process of paying for the UMWA insurance premium of \$531.85 that was approved last month.

CNHRPC Brownfields Advisory Committee (Mike Hansen)

No change since the last meeting.

LAC Workshop

Michele, Steve and Mike attended the LAC workshop. Mike gave a presentation on plan review. Susan Paschell (former UMRLACer) presented on current NH environmental legislation. All attendees reported back that the workshop was valuable. Michele indicated that the workshop

might be held every 18 months instead of the current every other year pace. Thomas E. O'Donovan, the new NHDES Water Division Director, attended and introduced himself. Additionally, the revised wetlands rules were released just before the workshop and Mary Ann Tilton gave a presentation on the changes. The changes to the draft wetlands rules include a requirement for LAC sign off on expedited permits. The deadline for LAC comment on wetlands permits remains at 30 days. This will be difficult due to the monthly nature of LAC meetings. It may be necessary to develop certain types of prepared responses or other measures to meet the 30-day deadlines.

FERC Licensing

Gary Lemay provided the following FERC licensing update:

- 1) Gary reviewed the comments on the Lakeport dam proposed study plan for relicensing prepared by various governmental agencies. The comments emphasized eel passage (upstream and downstream) and expressed concerns that the existing trash racks are not protective of wildlife and can get clogged. UMR LAC agrees with these raised issues and Gary will consider ways for UMR LAC to augment these important comments.
- 2) Gary is tracking the three Contoocook dam relicensing applications. Relicensing efforts on the Contoocook dams should be initiated in November of this year.

Upper Merrimack Monitoring Program (UMMP)

Steve and Michele teamed up to send out the vials of aquatic insect samples to Rhithron for ID and digital library update. Steve noted that Bug Nights are off to a good start. There were 16 attendees three weeks in a row and 15 on the 4th week. All sample sorting has been completed. Bug Nights will continue this Wednesday but will have a short break the week of April 15.

Turkey River Restoration Plan

UMWA directors provided an update on the status of the Turkey River project. This grant funded project will develop a watershed restoration plan for the Turkey River. Comprehensive Environmental Inc. (CEI) has been selected to help develop the plan. CEI developed a similar watershed restoration plan in the region and has good nutrient standard expertise. CEI is developing a proposed scope of work and budget for UMWA. Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission is also involved with the effort and is providing mapping and other services. NHDES has offered to use intern labor to assess the remaining 20 stream crossings in the Turkey River watershed. Tours of the watershed and municipal involvement were discussed. A kick off meeting will be upcoming. UMR LAC briefly discussed obtaining supplemental funding for the effort. A decision on pursuing additional funding will be deferred until more progress is made with the existing resources.

Guest Speakers

Steve indicated that he followed up with John McGee (NH Fish and Game) on the presentation on Nash Stream restoration work. Steve indicated that the topic will need to be narrowed because of the magnitude of the work being done on the Nash Stream (chop and drop addition of wood, watershed restoration plan, stream crossing improvements, etc). UMR LAC is particularly interested in the watershed restoration plan process due to our proposed plan for the Turkey River so that would be of particular interest. Steve will talk to John McGee on the length and focus of the presentation. UMRAC also suggested that it would be valuable to have Mary Ann Tilton speak to us on the wetland rules changes.

Projects and Comment Periods

UMRLAC reviewed a proposed 30-year lease and installation of telecommunication equipment on 29 Hazen Drive (State Office Building in Concord) roof. No comment is required; UMRLAC will send an email thanking the state for the comment opportunity.

UMRLAC reviewed a major wetlands permit application for a big box development near Exit 17 by Interchange Development LLC. The project will develop 43 acres near the incinerator and new gas station. It will alter/mostly destroy 31,765 sq ft of wetlands and will result in commercial (big box, restaurant, medical and dentist offices) and warehouse space. The development is near Burnham Brook but will have an undisturbed setback from the brook and associated gully to minimize impacts. Stormwater will be infiltrated via Storm Tech chambers and the wetlands impacts will be mitigated by depositing \$150K into the ARM fund. The applicant justifies the ARM fund payment by noting that the wetlands are low value, all previously disturbed/created during Interstate construction sand and gravel mining. UMRLAC will prepare comments including: 1) need to depict snow dump areas on maps, 2) probable mistake in map number sequences, 3) need for accurate elevation based flood plain depiction on the maps, 4) allowable activities in the buffer areas (concerns prompted by the sandy highly erodible nature of area soils), 5) responsibility for implementation of O&M plan for the Storm Tech system, 6) need to pretreat stormwater going into Storm Tech system and 7) need to minimize salt addition to Burnham brook via the infiltration system by using a green snow pro certified company for snow removal.

Miscellaneous

Wayne will prepare a revision to the bylaws for discussion at the May meeting. Michele provided copies of an opinion from the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to UMRLAC members. The letter explains that the OAG will defend LAC members if a lawsuit or claim arises from a LAC member acting within their statutory duties.

Summary of Assignments:

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| Michele | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prepare April agenda.- Follow up on Ashley Warner's financial disclosure form.- Invite Mary Ann Tilton to present wetlands rule changes to UMRLAC. |
| Steve | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prepare comments on Exit 17 major wetlands permit application.- Discuss Nash stream restoration presentation with John Magee.- Ongoing bug night coordination. |
| Mike | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Continue to track Brownfields Advisory Committee. |
| Wayne | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prepare revision to bylaws for May meeting review. |
| Gary | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prepare minutes. |
| Gary Lemay | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Continue to track FERC licensing activities. |
| Krista | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prepare the monthly Treasurer's report. |

Minutes submitted by Gary Lynn.