



BOSCAWEN
BOW
CANTERBURY
CONCORD
FRANKLIN
NORTHFIELD

UMRLAC, PO Box 3019, Boscawen, NH 03303

UMRLAC Meeting Minutes for June 8, 2015 Canterbury Town Hall

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

Others Present: Mr. Liolis and James McCartney (National Park Service)

Members absent: Rick Chormann (Concord) and Alan Larder (Franklin)

The Chair of UMRLAC, Michele Tremblay, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. UMRLAC voted to accept the consent agenda. The next meeting will be **July 13, 2015 in Concord**.

Membership

Adrienne Hutchinson has been nominated to join UMRLAC and her official appointment should be in place by July. This was Harry's last meeting; he will be moving to Connecticut. UMRLAC will miss him. Bill will follow up with Glen Brown about potentially joining UMRLAC. Bill's nomination form has not yet been sent to NH DES; he will check on it.

Establishment of a 501(c)(3)

After a discussion on the establishment of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit group, UMRLAC voted to proceed with the process. To minimize the cost of preparation of annual IRS filings, 501(c)(3) will be established when it becomes necessary for UMMP related purposes. Selection of the name of the nonprofit will occur in a future meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The May Treasurer's report was reviewed and UMLAC voted to accept the report and put it on file. PSNH paid their adopt-a-site support payment for 2014. Krista paid Blue Ridge for our internet site usage. Krista will reimburse Michele and Steve for the storage unit. Steve shared a picture of the storage unit jammed pack with UMMP gear. Krista will keep the extra padlock key for the storage unit.

Wild and Scenic River

James McCartney provided information on Wild and Scenic River designation. He stated that two congressionally authorized Wild and Scenic River evaluation studies are pertinent for UMLAC, the March 1996 study of the Pemigewasset River and the January 1999 study of the upper Merrimack River. The studies are very important because they evaluated whether the studied river segments are eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River program (must be free flowing and have significant geologic, historical, wild, fisheries or agricultural features). The studies and subsequent public informational sessions also examined the suitability for designation. Local support is a key ingredient in determining whether designation is suitable for the river. Last time designation of the upper Merrimack River was attempted the public support for river designation was found lacking in some of the communities. James indicated that the Pemigewasset study considered the portion of the river from Ayers Island dam to Bristol. The portion in Franklin was not included in the study. The Upper Merrimack River study considered the segment from the Franklin confluence to Garvin Falls. A significant finding of this study is that the eligible portion of the Upper Merrimack is from Franklin to the Manchester Street Bridge. Downstream of the bridge the river is not free flowing and is consists of the backwater from the Garvin Falls dam.

Michele posed the question whether the Park Service would recommend to Congress designation of the portion of the Merrimack River that is in Franklin. She noted that Jamie Fosburgh of the Park Service previously indicated to her that it is not necessary for the designation to be contiguous or to extend to both sides of the river. James indicated that UMLAC could go forward with the Franklin stretch of the river but that it was desirable to include the maximum reach of the river that is eligible. James indicated that the Park Service's recommendations would be based on the studies that have already been completed. Michele indicated that for a variety of reasons proceeding with the Franklin portion of the river was the best choice and that additional communities could apply at a later date if they like what occurred with Franklin. James also described the designation process which culminates in an Act of Congress designating the river. Ideally, the entire New Hampshire Congressional delegation would support the bill and would obtain co-sponsors. At a minimum, a Senator and a Representative are necessary because the bill would need to be introduced in both houses of Congress.

Thirteen partnership rivers have been designated nationally and two of these rivers have been designated in New Hampshire, the Wildcat and the Lamprey. The Partnership Wild and Scenic River program is small in the northeast with only a dozen people working on it for the Park Service. All Congressional Acts designating partnership rivers include language indicating that there will be no federal land acquisitions. UMLAC voted to proceed with Franklin on designation and will discuss the next step with the Franklin City Council.

Upper Merrimack River Monitoring Program (UMMP)

The UMMP bug night program concluded with some nice deli food for the volunteers to munch on while they identified aquatic insects. UMLAC will reimburse Steve and Michele \$108.98 for the food. This cost should be added to the annual budget. There were a record number of bug night sessions; however, the identification work was not completed because all rock basket samples were retrieved this year and six rock baskets were filled with sand which made picking the samples very difficult. Claudette Verville and Chantal McGuire volunteered to finish the sample identification this summer. Bug Night "report cards" will be mailed soon. For next year, Steve and Michele indicated that they will ask the Saint Paul's School for a longer contract period and they will redo the habitat assessments to address the strong river flows last season.

In addition, rock basket #4 should be moved downstream a little to a safer sampling location. The rock baskets will be deployed on June 25 and retrieved eight weeks later on August 20th. Bacteria sampling will start Thursday June 11 and will last for six events.

The QA/QC quotes were discussed. After giving the vendors one last opportunity to quote on the same level of work, the three quotes that were considered ranged from \$2,800 to \$6,022 (Rhithron, WAA, and ESS). UMLAC voted to accept the low bid of \$2,800 from Rhithron. Michele will work on getting a contract with the firm.

Project Proposals, Permits and Complaints

Fish and Game expressed no interest in helping to relocate fish that will be impacted by the Amoskeag Realty pond removal and paving project. UMLAC will volunteer to assist instead. UMLAC reviewed an after-the-fact Shoreland permit application for Joseph Rider (Hall Street in Bow). UMLAC will provide comments because the shoreland application is incomplete due to the failure to provide New Hampshire Heritage Bureau findings.

Miscellaneous

Gary Lemay finished his website review and forwarded his comments to Michele. Krista will be the June website reviewer. Michele researched the 1% for the Planet program. This program is run out of Burlington Vermont. UMLAC qualifies for the program and if it joins, the UMLAC can receive funding from participating companies. UMLAC voted to participate in the program.

UMLAC voted to host a New Hampshire Rivers Council River Runners training workshop. This program is put on by the Rivers Council and is designed to train people to identify invasive species. We will probably host it at the Conservation Center in Concord in either June or July. UMLAC voted to provide up to \$50 in refreshments for the session.

Summary of Assignments:

Michele	- Michele will initiate 501(c)(3) nonprofit establishment efforts. - Michele will follow up with the City of Franklin on Wild and Scenic River designation.
Steve	- Steve will coordinate rock basket deployment. - Steve or Michele will communicate concerns on the incomplete shoreland permit application - Steve will coordinate revisions to UMLAC's permit review guidelines.
Bill	- Bill will check on the status of his re-nomination form.
Everyone	- Think of names for the 501(c)(3) nonprofit.
Gary Lynn	- Gary will prepare the June meeting minutes.
Rick	- Rick will follow up on Wild and Scenic River designation support in Concord.
Krista	- Krista will prepare the monthly Treasurer's report and review the website.

Minutes submitted by Gary Lynn, UMLAC Secretary