



Boscawen
Bow
Canterbury
Concord
Franklin
Northfield

PO Box 3019 | Denacook, NH 03303

UMRLAC Meeting Minutes for June 14, 2021 DES Offices, Concord

Members present: Michele Tremblay (At Large), Steve Landry (At Large), Gary Lynn (Bow), Krista Crowell (Bow), Anne Dowling (Canterbury), Tom Gilmore (Boscawen), Adrienne Hutchinson (Canterbury), Donna Liolis (Franklin) and Mary Lee (Northfield)

Members absent: Jeffrey Perkins (Franklin), Wayne Ives (Franklin), Gary Lemay (Concord), Mike Hansen (Bow) and Rick Chormann (Concord).

Others present:

The Chair of UMRAC, Michele Tremblay, called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM. The next meeting will be held on **July 12, 2021 in Northfield.**

Consent Agenda Approval

The May minutes and consent agenda were approved unanimously. The July meeting will be held in Northfield and the August meeting will be held in Boscawen. Tom will explore Boscawen meeting locations that can accommodate a socially distanced meeting.

Membership

Michele noted that Gary and Krista's membership is valid until May 25, 2021. Gary and Krista will follow up with the town of Bow on their renominations. Rick Chormann is not responding to phone messages and emails regarding his membership status. Michele sent Rick a letter thanking him for his past service and directing him to contact her should he wish to rejoin. Mike Hansen indicated that family commitments prevent him from renewal at this time. He indicated that he would be willing to serve again at some point in the future. Michele sent Mike a letter thanking him for his service. Gary Lemay's appointment expired in April and UMRAC hopes that he will renew in the future.

Treasurer's Report

The May Treasurer's report was reviewed, approved and placed on file. Krista noted that UMRAC received a past due notice for the Boscawen self storage rental. She will call because UMRAC did not receive an initial invoice and because we normally pay for an entire year (\$330); the notice was for a monthly charge (\$30). The Friends of the Northern Rail Trail sent out their annual request for donations. Franklin lost their support payment invoice, was sent another and paid before their fiscal year ended.

Brownfields Advisory Committee.

No update available. Mike Hansen will not be renewing his UMRAC membership. Gary Lynn volunteered to replace Mike on the brownfields advisory committee. Michele will send a note to the CNHRPC about our change in representative to the committee.

FERC Update

No update available.

Guest Speaker

Michele will obtain a guest speaker on the NH wildlife action plan. Steve and/or Michele will also identify speakers on the NHDES perspective on wetland and AOT permit applications. Possible speakers include Cheryl Bondi/Lori Sommers for wetlands and Ridge Mauck/Bethann McCarthy for AOT.

Upper Merrimack Monitoring Program (UMMP)

Steve and Michele discussed possible approaches to the 2021 UMMP field season. Various options were reviewed and the decision was made to pursue limited bacteria sampling in July, August and September and biosampling via kick nets at a limited number of sites. The kick netting would probably include the reference sites (Pemi and Stirrup Iron Brook) to ensure program continuity and the Turkey River for baseline condition data prior to implementation of the restoration plan. The bacteria sampling could consist of two teams of samplers (north and south team) that could meet in the middle for transfer of samples to the team heading back to Concord. Michele also discussed the need for succession planning to ensure that UMMP survives any changes in leadership. Finally, Michele will contact the St Paul's School about the potential for bug nights in 2022.

Projects

Steve noted that UMLAC was copied on correspondence from NHDES that requested additional information from the City of Concord on the proposed Hoyt and Whitney Roads roundabouts. NHDES also sent UMLAC a copy of the wetlands permit approval for the Exit 17 project. UMLAC received correspondence from NHDOT regarding surplus land sale of the Stickney Avenue warehouses in Concord. The correspondence noted the presence of some pollution, the need for a groundwater management permit and the requirement that the historic H shaped building be protected from demolition. It also noted that conservation measures for the common night hawk and potentially a frog species were required. UMLAC will ask NHDOT for copies of the pages that were cutoff during copying and for information on the conservation measures that are likely needed for the night hawk.

UMLAC reviewed NHDOT's wetlands permit application for rehabilitation of I-89 culverts near the I-93 interchange. The proposed project seeks to line a 292 feet long 48 inch and a 223 feet long 18 inch culvert. The headwall of the 48 inch culvert will be repaired and the low water level perching problem fixed. There will be 4,700 sq ft of wetlands disturbance but no increase in impervious surface. Northern long eared bat habitat may be impacted, however, there was a site visit with Fish and Game present and a determination was made that the project was not prohibited. Steve noted that the current culverts are not ideal, for example, both culverts enter the Turkey River perpendicular to flow making fish passage difficult. UMLAC will send a letter emphasizing the need to complete the work during a period of low flow and asking for information on why tree removal is necessary. UMLAC will also request a copy of as-built plans for our Turkey River restoration plan.

UMLAC River Management Plan

Michele requested that everyone review our river management plan. The plan was created in September of 2007 and was last reviewed in 2012. The plan will need to be updated to address changes in AOT/wetlands rules, municipal planning and zoning changes and to reflect the stronger interest in stream crossings. Steve discussed the potential for obtaining funding

assistance via a 604b grant. The grant must go through a regional planning commission and a total of \$64k will be awarded in 2021. This year's round of 604b grants was announced the Friday before this meeting.

UMWA Update

The Turkey River restoration plan is proceeding and a draft plan will be finalized using the data that has been collected to date. Project checkins continue on the second Tuesday of the month between CEI, CNHRPC and the NHDES grant officer. Key activities that are ongoing include: 1) development of a best management practices example, 2) completion of a list of recommended projects ranked by low, medium and high priority and 3) presentation of the data on the 88 stream crossings in such a fashion that the crossings are properly prioritized for upgrading. September 30th is the grant deadline for submission of the final plan and invoicing.

Summary of Assignments

Michele	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare July UMLAC meeting agenda. - Line up a speaker on the NH wildlife action plan. - Jointly (with Steve) develop and distribute a bacteria and kick netting field season plan. - Contact St. Pauls about using their facility for 2022 bug nights. - With Steve, identify NHDES speakers on wetlands/AOT permit reviews.
Steve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue efforts to address 2019 and 2020 UMMP samples. - Prepare comments on the NHDOT surplus land sale and the I-89 culvert wetland permit application. - Jointly (with Michele) develop and distribute a bacteria and kick netting field season plan.
Everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read the September 2007 river management plan and identify necessary revisions.
Tom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Find a meeting place in Boscawen for the September 2007 meeting.
Gary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare minutes. - Track the Brownfields Advisory Committee. - Discuss renomination to UMLAC with the town of Bow.
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 and send a check to support the Friends of Northern Rail Trail. - Discuss renomination to UMLAC with the town of Bow.

Minutes submitted by Gary Lynn.