



Boscawen  
Bow  
Canterbury  
Concord  
Franklin  
Northfield

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PO Box 3019 | Denacook, NH 03303

UMRLAC Meeting Minutes for July 13, 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), Wayne Ives (Franklin), Anne Dowling (Canterbury), Donna Liolis (Franklin), Adrienne Hutchinson (Canterbury), Nita Tomaszewski (At Large) and Mary Lee (Northfield).

*Members absent:* Jeffrey Perkins (Franklin), Mike Hansen (Bow), Thomas Gilmore (Boscawen), Rick Chormann (Concord), and Ashley Warner (Northfield).

*Others present:* Tracie Sales (NH DES, Rivers Program)

The Chair of UMRLAC, Michele Tremblay, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Michele started the meeting by reading from the portion of Governor Sununu's emergency order that authorized virtual meetings during the Covid 19 crises. UMRLAC voted to accept the consent agenda. The next meeting will be **August 10, 2020 via a virtual meeting.**

#### Minutes

The March minutes were approved.

#### Membership

Donna's membership expired in April and she agreed to request renewal from the Franklin City Council. Ashley's membership will expire December 18. Rick Chormann's appointment ends October 30. All other members are current.

#### Treasurer's Report and Financial Issues

The Treasurer's reports for January through June were approved and placed on file. UMRLAC will send a check to Friends of the Northern Rail Trail - Merrimack County. No vote was necessary, the donation was included in the previously approved annual budget. Michele indicated that NH Hydro, Nelson Analytics and GZA have outstanding adopt-a-river support payments. Michele will confer with Krista to verify that the payments are outstanding and, if so, will invoice them for two years at the time of the next billing cycle. Krista noted that she paid the cost for the storage unit rental and for insurance since the last meeting.

#### Guest Speaker

CoVid 19 resulted in a hold on guest speaker presentations. UMRLAC will attempt to set up a virtual presentation by Don Ware of Pennichuck on PFOA issues but the consensus at the meeting was that we should gain more experience with the virtual meeting format before attempting this. Michele urged all members to think of other presentation topics and speakers.

### CNHRPC Brownfields Advisory Committee (Mike Hansen)

No new developments; Mike will continue to serve on the committee based on an email to Michele sent prior to the meeting.

### FERC Licensing (Gary Lemay)

FERC licensing correspondence was submitted in June for the Mad River dam in Campton. The correspondence from the dam owner requested a licensing exemption. Gary indicated that licensing exemptions are hard to obtain and are rare. The Lakeport dam licensing is proceeding: FERC has received study proposal comments from NH DES and the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Contoocook dams had a virtual site visit in May. According to Tracie, an onsite visit will occur in July and she will provide the specifics for the visit to Gary Lemay. There is a website that may have information on the July site visit.

### Upper Merrimack Monitoring Program (UMMP)

Bug nights were put on hold due to the pandemic. State budget cuts resulted in the loss of lab personnel at the Franklin wastewater treatment plant (FWWTP). Analysis of UMMP E Coli bacteria samples by the FWWTP was not possible this year as a result. A compromise was negotiated and the FWWTP will collect and analyze samples 5 to 6 times this year from site 3, 4, the Pemi and the Winni. This will ensure some data continuity. Aries Engineering became aware of the E Coli sampling problem and has volunteered to talk to Nelson Analytical about the possibility of free or discounted E Coli tests for next year. Steve, Michele and the dedicated UMMP volunteer crew pulled off a coup and were able to deploy all of the rock baskets (16 sites) for the biomonitoring program on June 26ish. They accomplished this feat via virtual training (YouTube videos and channel). The deployments were accomplished by 14 teams and a total of 27 volunteers. The rock baskets will be retrieved August 21ish.

### Projects

UMRLAC discussed the Penacook Wastewater Treatment Plant NPDES permit. Comments are due by July 23. Steve led the discussion. No standard for phosphorus and only monitoring for nitrogen were included in the draft permit. Steve noted that the bacteria standard in the permit is 126/100ml average and 406/100ml max for E Coli bacteria. This is equivalent to the Class B river standard. UMRLAC decided not to comment on the NPDES permit which is issued for 5 years. UMRLAC may decide to comment on the permit during the next renewal cycle depending on the circumstances at that point in time.

### UMWA Update

UMWA will have a virtual meeting to elect offices. Consultant contracts are still being worked on and an extension to the grant deadline may be explored due to delays caused by the CoVid pandemic.

### Miscellaneous

Michele noted Governor Sununu has nominated Scott Mason for the NH Fish and Game Executive Director position. Scott has agricultural experience, was a PR consultant for Northern Pass and is a lifelong hunter and fisherman. His nomination has not been on the Executive Council agenda to date. Michele noted that the Whitewater Park in Franklin has received its permit. The permit will allow them to alter the river bottom. The presence of substantial amounts of building debris in the river was a significant factor in approval of the permit. UMRLAC will discuss at the next meeting whether the permit will have an impact on

UMRLAC's sampling sites. Wayne will look over the Whitewater Park permit to help facilitate the discussion.

Summary of Assignments:

Michele	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Discuss PFOA presentation with Don Ware.</li><li>- Discuss late adopt-a-river sponsor payments with Krista.</li></ul>
Steve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Find a speaker on the culvert assessment program topic.</li></ul>
Wayne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Review the Franklin Whitewater Park permit.</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>- Send a check to Friends of the Northern Rail Trail.</li></ul>

*Minutes submitted by Gary Lynn.*