



Boscawen
Bow
Canterbury
Concord
Franklin
Northfield

PO Box 3019 | Denacook, NH 03303

UMRLAC Meeting Minutes for August 10, 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), Mike Hansen (Bow), Thomas Gilmore (Boscawen), Anne Dowling (Canterbury), Donna Liolis (Franklin), Adrienne Hutchinson (Canterbury), Nita Tomaszewski (At Large) and Mary Lee (Northfield).

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

Others present: None

The Chair of UMRLAC, Michele Tremblay, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Michele started the meeting by reading from Governor Sununu's emergency order that authorizes virtual meetings during the Covid 19 crises. UMRLAC voted by roll call to accept the consent agenda. The next meeting will be **September 14, 2020 via a virtual meeting.**

Minutes

The July minutes were approved.

Membership

Donna's membership expired in April. Donna spoke to Mayor Guinta about renewal and she will complete the renewal form for Franklin City Council to act on. Ashley's membership will expire December 18. Ashley indicated to Mary Lee that she can only attend virtual meetings. UMRLAC will resume in person meetings as soon as the CoVid 19 emergency passes. Mary Lee will speak to Ashley about the future resumption of in person meetings so that Ashley can make an informed decision about membership renewal.

Treasurer's Report and Financial Issues

The Treasurer's report for July was approved and placed on file. Krista sent the support check to Friends of the Northern Rail Trail - Merrimack County.

Guest Speaker

Don Ware is unable to travel but can do a virtual presentation on PFOA. Michele noted that CEI has a webinar available on PFOA as an alternative. Steve noted that Shane Csiki of NH DES has agreed to do a presentation on the Stream Culvert and Bridge Assessment Protocol. He would tailor his presentation for the watershed. UMRLAC discussed the difficulty of doing virtual presentations and will hold off on presentations for now.

CNHRPC Brownfields Advisory Committee (Mike Hansen)

No new developments.

FERC Licensing (Gary Lemay)

A site visit was conducted by Essex Hydro on July 28th at 9AM. The site visit was well attended by regulatory agencies and was related to the relicensing of three dams on the Contoocook River (Rolfe Canal, Upper and Lower Penacook Falls dams). Study plans will be developed by the end of the year and study requests are due 60 days after the July 28th site visit. The FERC license application for the three dams is due in 2022. When the license application is submitted, UMLAC will request to be an intervenor. No other updates were necessary on the other FERC relicensing projects.

Upper Merrimack Monitoring Program (UMMP)

Bug nights were cancelled due to the pandemic, however, Michele has led an effort to hold virtual bug nights (practice ID of an emailed bug picture). Virtual bug nights have been conducted for 23 weeks. Although in person group aquatic insect ID is impossible, one set of microscopes has been lent out for at home volunteer ID work. The biomonitoring rock baskets have been in the river for 7 weeks and retrievals can start the week of 8/21. Michele and Steve will have to develop a schedule for the retrieval teams and plan to develop a UTube video of retrieval best practices. Steve thinks that this year's drought will make the biomonitoring data very interesting and useful. Four sites (Pemi, Winni, site 3 and site 4) will have E Coli data collected this year.

Projects

Wayne led a discussion on the Franklin Winnepesaukee River Whitewater Park project. Two permits have been approved for the project and the final permit application is under review by Craig Day of NH DES. The final permit will be for a construction access road. The project includes work within 1,400 feet of river bed and the construction of multiple artificial wave and scour hole structures in the river. To mitigate the impacts, the permit requires conservation easements on 21 acres of land or an ARM payment of \$370,000. The river disturbance was in part justified by the presence of substantial mill related debris in the river. River disturbance will start at the Stevens Mill dam, extend past the Central Street bridge for a total of 1,400 feet downstream. The area of disturbance impacts the UMMP biomonitoring site location. UMMP will need to select a new location for biomonitoring of the river.

Steve discussed the SRF funded energy efficiency project for the Franklin wastewater treatment plant. The project will modify the oversized aerator to achieve a 40% reduction in power use and a 20% overall plantwide reduction in power use. Less sludge will be produced and the quality of the water discharged to the river will be at least as good as currently discharged. UMLAC will send a no comment email supporting the project.

UMWA Update

There will be a conference call on August 17, 2020 on the Turkey River restoration plan. Rob Tardiff of NH DES, Michele, Steve and CEI will be on the call. Gary Lemay may also be able to make the call.

Miscellaneous

Gary Lemay indicated that he would have a draft generic permit application response letter for wetland and shoreland permit applications by the September meeting. Michele requested that UMLAC members consider participation in the AOT rule making public input session on 8/27/2020 from 1 to 4 PM. She and Steve will be tied up with the Wild & Scenic River Film Festival and cannot participate. Tom and Anne will try and make the session and take notes.

The proposed rule making will modify current language to weaken the handling of threatened and endangered species. NH DES indicates that they would like to modify the rules to make the rules more workable and more consistent with current practices. Apparently the rule making was triggered by a permit appeal that highlighted inadequate consideration of the project's impact on threatened and endangered species.

Summary of Assignments:

Michele	- Develop rock basket retrieval UTube video. - Develop rock basket retrieval schedule w/ Steve.
Steve	- Develop rock basket retrieval schedule w/ Michele.
Mary Lee	- Explain to Ashley that virtual meetings will end sometime next year.
Donna	- Complete UMLAC renewal paper work and submit it to city council.
Tom and Anne	- Participate in AOT rule making public input session.
Gary	- Prepare minutes.
Gary Lemay	- Continue to track FERC licensing activities. - Draft generic letters for shorelands and wetlands permits.
Krista	- Prepare the monthly Treasurer's report.

Minutes submitted by Gary Lynn.