

RIVER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
October 22, 2013

Present: Mary Antes, Wayland; Doug and Aviva Brooks, Concord; Cindy Delpapa, Commonwealth, Lisa Eggleston, SVT; Bill Fadden, Framingham; Alison Field-Juma, OARS; Nancy Hallen, SVT; Libby Herland, US Fish and Wildlife; Tom Sciacca, Wayland; Lee Steppacher, National Park Service

Absent: Nancy Bryant, SUASCO Community Council; Betsy Gallagher, Billerica; Ralph Hammond, Bedford; Jim Meador, Lincoln; Steve Pearlman, Carlisle; Anne Slugg, Sudbury

Cindy Delpapa called the meeting to order at 7:04. The minutes of September 24, 2013 were approved with corrections (D. Brooks/Sciacca).

Status of Concord NPDES Permit Appeal

Alison said that OARS is looking at how the EPA is responding to Concord's appeal and whether the EPA has missed anything of importance to OARS before deciding how to respond. Once OARS makes that decision, the RSC will discuss what action it will take. Doug asked what actions if any he and Aviva should take as Concord's representatives. Alison suggested that they might talk to members of the Board of Selectmen and perhaps the town manager to ask whether they might be interested in getting together to discuss the permit issues. They might also talk with Delia to see what she might advise. An important question remains unanswered: whether the EPA has the authority to manage flow.

A question arose about MA Open Meeting laws and whether RSC comes under its purview. Cindy mentioned that Westfield posts its minutes on their website and wondered whether we should do the same. Lee said that we are now doing that as well. Doug said that he does not believe that the RSC fits the definition of a governmental body. There is also the question of whether a state law applies to a federal committee. While Lee has investigated these issues before, she will check again.

Discussion of RSC Support of OARS SWMI Grant Proposal

Alison said that there is a new framework for water withdrawals under the new Water Management Act. This has been developed through the Sustainable Water Management initiative (SWMI). All wastewater permits in the region are up for renewal in 2015; new permits will be in effect for 20 years.

The State is funding grants to pilot some of the requirements presented in SWMI before the regulations are finalized. Consequently OARS is working on an application for funding from the state for training in this watershed. Partners include six towns, Weston and Sampson Consultants, and MAPC. Hudson will serve as the lead town since funding must go to a municipality; OARS will be a sub-contractor. The project will involve community outreach, data gathering on water needs, management, and forecast; infrastructure; and optimization. Lisa said that because of climate change that river flow highs are higher and lows are lower and the project should try to improve stream flow and water quality. Alison asked for a letter of support from the RSC by Thursday since the proposal is due on Friday. All the work must be done in

four months. The grants are very competitive and require a 20 percent (in-kind) match. There was a consensus to support the application.

Three Rivers Chorus

Lee said that the Three River Chorus multi-media concert will be Saturday, November 2nd at 8pm in the West Concord Union Church. The Chorus would like two readers and ushers. Anne and Bill volunteered to be ushers. The RSC and OARS and SVT will have a display and a brief description of their organizations in the program.

Proposal to Update Website

Monty wants to update and modernize the website so that the work can be managed by OARS. He estimates the cost of updating the site at \$1,200. The funds can come from the approximately \$1,800 in RSC reserves.

Lee gave a brief update of the RSC's funding. In FY13 the RSC received about \$85,000 after removing Lee's salary and after a three percent cut. Budget items from this year that have not been expended to date include \$10,000 for the Sudbury river flow study, \$4,500 for Nancy's storm water workshop, and \$2,000 for the parent network map. Next year the budget is expected to be about \$80,000. Doug made a motion to take \$1,200 from the reserve fund to update the website. The motion passed unanimously.

Updates and Announcements

Sudbury River Flow Study: The flow study meeting with Framingham was not held because of the government shut-down; it has been rescheduled for November 5th. The project manager of the Birch Road wells project within the Town will be present and we will discuss the Town's interest and involvement in the project. There is the possibility that they will commit staff time and financial support to the project.

The RSC is applying for a MET (Massachusetts Environmental Trust) grant, requesting \$135,000 over three years for the study. A letter has been submitted and we are waiting for an invitation to submit a full application.

Parents' Network Map: Printing of the parent network map will probably cost \$4,200, including the 'backing.' RSC only budgeted about \$2000 for the project. Ralph suggested at the last meeting that Rotary might be interested in contributing to the publication. If this funding does not come through, RSC will wait until next year and add some additional funds to cover costs of printing. The maps will be most popular in the spring and summer so this delay will not have a large impact. OARS will hold a launch party when the maps are complete..

Baystate Stream Crossing Workshop: The RSC-supported Stream Crossing workshop will be held in Marlboro on October 29th. This is the third of three identical workshops.

New Business

Stonebridge Debris Clearing: Bill is having difficulty connecting with Framingham about the clean-up. The town's new conservation administrator is interested in the project. The public works agreement is in place. Tom said that the water level is low so that now would be a good

time to do the work. There is \$2,500 available to do the work but one estimate was for \$4,000. There was a brief discussion about whether volunteers could supplement the paid work. Members are encouraged to ask tree companies or landscapers about their availability and cost prior to the next meeting.

To avoid meeting during Thanksgiving week, the next meeting will be December 3.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50.