

RIVER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

December 2, 2014

Present: Mary Antes, Wayland; Cindy Delpapa, Commonwealth, Bill Fadden, Framingham; Alison Field-Juma, OARS; Ralph Hammond, Bedford; Libby Herland, US Fish and Wildlife; Jim Meadors, Lincoln; Tom Sciacca, Wayland; Anne Slugg, Sudbury; Kate Tyrrell, SVT; Jamie Fosburgh, National Park Service; guests, Lisa Vernegaard, SVT; and Jane Fadden

Absent: Nancy Bryant, SUASCO Community Council; Doug and Aviva Brooks, Concord; Lisa Eggleston, SVT; Betsy Gallagher, Billerica; Steve Pearlman, Carlisle

Following some holiday festivities, Cindy Delpapa called the meeting to order at 7:04. The minutes of October 28, 2014 were approved as presented with one abstention (Fadden/Sciacca).

Treasurer's Report

Anne Slugg reported that everything is in balance financially. The sum of \$4,500 remains due to the cancellation of the stormwater workshops and other funds remain in the small grants allocation because only two proposals were received and funded. Jamie proposed a treasurer's report at each RSC meeting and a quarterly report to the Park Service. Kate suggested that a small group meet to look at the various budget categories and format. The treasurer's report was approved (Field-Juma/Sciacca).

Anne reminded the Council that the photographic exhibit will be at the Bedford Library in January and at the Lincoln Library in February.

Vote on Funding for Holiday Pops River Piece

It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to contribute \$1,000 to support music and photographs of the Sudbury River by Gus Sebring that will be played by the Boston Pops (Sciacca/Slugg). Credit will be given to the RSC, SVT, and OARS in the program and from the stage. Alison purchased tickets for 2 ½ tables for the December 14th performance.

Sudbury River Flow Study Public Information Event

The report of the findings of the study is being written. Jamie asked the authors for a public presentation. It was suggested that the event be held in February in Framingham since the town contributed to the funding of the study. Possible locations include the library, DPW, and municipal building. The target audience is the town of Framingham, the RSC, and conservation commissions; municipal workers would likely be more available during the day while other stakeholders might prefer an evening meeting. Libby said she would like another year of data gathering.

Presentation of the Wild and Scenic History

Jamie gave a visual presentation of the results to date of the wild and scenic legislation that was passed in 1968. The Allagash River in Maine was the first river to be so designated, followed by rivers in Florida, and eventually in Delaware and New Jersey. Interest in the wild and scenic designation usually begins at the local level and each river has interesting regional differences. Currently there are three study bills before Congress and two New England rivers have received

wild and scenic designation: Little Farmington and Missisquoi. Both the Taunton and the Eight Mile Rivers are under-funded.

Partnership NJ Gathering

Jamie said the total budget for the New England Wild and Scenic Rivers program is \$747,000; of that about \$300,000 is for National Park Service staff, not including Lee's position. Lee's position will not be filled before the new Congress takes office. In January, Alison and Cindy will work on a letter to the regional director stating the importance of filling Lee's position. The regional director of the program would like to visit New England; it was suggested that the visit might occur during Riverfest weekend.

New Business

NPS Grant Application Possibilities: Because of the short turnaround, there was a conference call of people with project ideas. Tom was interesting in a project connecting the Wayland Middle School's use of EcoMUVE (multi-user virtual environment) and Mass Audubon (connecting the virtual and real world) but the schools feel that there is not enough time to work out the details of the project.

Amber Carr suggested two projects: 1) \$46,000 for a summer crew to remove water chestnuts in 2016. The match would come from Nyanza and 2) \$17,000 for a summer rapid response team of five young people. Both projects would help them get experience that might lead to NPS jobs. Libby thought that the second would be more competitive. She thought F & W might be able to house the students. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to submit option 2 (Fadden/Herland).

Cindy expressed interest in engaging a professional story teller, Tony Toledo, to create a story related to Thoreau's and Emerson's interest in connecting people to public lands and to perform the story in three venues for a project total of \$3,500. Additional performances would cost \$500. RSC small grants could be used as a match. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to submit an application to engage the story teller to write and perform in each of the eight towns in the RSC, at Riverfest, and in an urban location (Field-Juma/Fadden).

SUASCO Community Council Grant: At the previous meeting it was voted to reallocate funding granted in 2013 for the SUASCO Community Council stormwater workshops. Nancy Bryant asked the RSC to reconsider. It was agreed that sufficient notice was given before the vote to reallocate funds was taken. Because the final stormwater regulations are not out yet, it would be better to wait until next year to hold the workshops, allowing the Council to apply in the next funding cycle. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to affirm the earlier decision and to encourage the Council to apply again in 2015 if this is a project they wish to pursue (Herland/Meadors).

The next meeting will be January 27th when the RSC partners will report on their projects. In February, town reps will review the new applications.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

