



**Sudbury, Assabet and Concord  
Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council  
Great Meadows NWR  
Weir Hill Road, Sudbury  
November 29, 2016 Minutes**

**RSC Member present:** Mary Antes (Wayland-alt), Elissa Brown (Concord), Sarah Bursky (NPS), Cindy Delpapa (State), Bill Fadden (Framingham), Alison Field-Juma (OARS), Libby Herland (USFWS), Jim Meadors (Lincoln), Karen Pelto (State), Tom Sciacca (Wayland), Anne Slugg (Sudbury/Chair), Kate Tyrrell (SVT)

RSC members not present: Lisa Eggleston (OARS- alt), Ralph Hammond (Bedford),

Also in Attendance: Marliese Henderson (Billerica ConComm) , Jim Lagerbom (Framingham)

Meeting called to order by Chair Slugg at 6:34 followed by introductions. M Sanderson noted she is with the Billerica Conservation Commission and hopes to be appointed as the new RSC Billerica Rep.

**October minutes:** Motion made to approve the October minutes, (Field-Juma/Tyrrell). MSV with 1 abstention.

**Internal needs/funding and reallocations of budget :**

K Tyrrell worked with S Bursky and A Slugg to rectify last year's budget/funding and have found there is \$4091 remaining from last year. A couple of funding needs have arisen including money to have nineteen W&S river crossing signs made and installed at identified crossings. S Bursky is waiting for a final quote on sign costs but estimates around \$2,500. Funding of \$1,500 is needed to pay OARS to help with Riverfest publicity and organization. Finally a retired NPS staff person, John Monroe, is willing to work as an 'outside consultant' to help facilitate the W&S planning effort for a cost of \$2,500. This funding is available through a redistribution of the \$5,000 allocated for graphic/web services of which only \$2,500 is needed. Motion made to reallocate funds to cover costs associated with new W&S road crossing signs (\$2,500), OARS fees for help with Riverfest (\$1,500) and to help with the cost of management planning facilitation (\$2,500),(Slugg/Tyrell). MSV.

**Community grants:**

The RSC received a number of grant requests for a diverse mix of projects. There was also one funding request sent today By S Bursky from Marlborough. The Marlborough applicant did contact S Bursky early to inquire about the suitability of the project for funding. Since the site was well outside the W&S designated area it was recommended the prospective applicant not submit an application. After additional projects outside the W&S Designated area came in, a decision was made to let the full RSC decide if the project was eligible but this did not give the applicant time to prepare a full application. A request was made for any RSC rep to identify if they have a conflict of interest with any of submittals as anyone with a conflict may participate in the discussion but not vote on any of the requests. A Field Juma is named as a partner in the Musketaquid application. E Brown is a member of the Concord Land Trust. It was

recognized the RSC may have to continue to wrestle with this issue of conflict-of-interest but generally a conflict is if a party will benefit financially and there did not appear to be any conflicts at this time. In the future it may be necessary to consider each case.

Some discussion of the two new review criteria, (reasonableness of cost ('bang for buck') and how the funding will impact the project or help build relationships with the RSC) concluded the new assessment factors were valuable. A discussion, without resolution, occurred concerning how to treat projects outside of designated W&S segments or W&S communities. The grant application clearly emphasizes the need to identify the benefits to W&S segments. The RSC should work to reach agreement on this issue of entertaining a project outside of the W&S area for funding and how an applicant would make the case for a project favorably impacting the W&S sections of the river as opposed to the river in general.

RSC may wish to weight one or more of the criteria to emphasize its importance. The focus criterion is important to E Brown. K Tyrrell feels the ability to implement/finish is important. A Field Juma mentioned an urgent need should rise over a project able to be done at a later time. Questions raised about the appropriateness of awarding partial funding. The consensus was a rationale for a reduction in funding would need to be given to an applicant. Recognizing there is not enough time to finalize a decision process tonight, it would be advisable to be able to offer an applicant input on the strengths and weaknesses of their application.

- *Discussion of grant applications*

The Eagle Scout's boat launch kiosk project in Bedford is requesting \$250- this is below the minimum funding amount listed in the application. A significant part of the budget is coming from donations. A question was raised about what nonprofit or community can receive the funding on behalf of the Scout. It was pointed out the Eagle Scout is working with Rotary and this organization may be able to accept the funds. Another observation was there was no mention of provisions for the long term maintenance of the kiosk and this is a concern.

Marlborough has requested \$950 for two boat launches. Many felt the location was too far from a W&S segment without a direct impact the W&S segment. This concern was countered with the recognized need for more access points on the river. The residents of Marlborough have invested in wastewater treatment upgrades and should be able to enjoy the river. There was a question about the funding being adequate to fully implement this project as outlined. OARS has some funding for access signs which might cover the town's need. General consensus was not to fund but offer them advice on where they might seek assistance.

The cardboard boat race request is for \$3,150. The applicant is proposing the event be held during Riverfest or have this activity as another calendar event for the RSC. It was noted the cardboard boat races done by others have shown the 'boats' do not float for more than a few meters before sinking; so the planned route outlined in the application may be unrealistic.

The Hudson Public School project request is for \$10,000. Hudson is significantly outside the W&S segment and is not a W&S community though the project will expose students to the river. Hudson is one of the most underserved communities in the watershed.

Concord Land Trust has requested \$10,000 to help with the acquisition of October Farm- a riverfront property. Several questions were raised about how much of the funding is in place -

especially how much funding is needed now that the project has received a land grant. There is a \$100,000 matching grant viable only until the end of this year. Some were keen to have the RSC as a contributor to this purchase even if the amount is insignificant to the grand total. RSC contribution is symbolic but also a decision not to fund could be perceived as the RSC saying the project/purchase was not important. This perceived lack of support could have ramifications for further fundraising efforts.

Framingham requested \$12,400, which is above the maximum request amount, for invasive control in the Saxonville reservoir. A Field-Juma provided an update on the project noting a request for town funding did not get into the autumn town meeting warrant thus the town needs money for the second chemical treatment. There is a commitment by the town for five years of invasives management.

The Lowell Park and Conservation Trust has requested \$5,000 for an alewife restoration count. The LPCT has been working with Federal agencies on the fish run and have a diverse group of youth working on the project. The LPCT will be leveraging a diverse mix of other funding.

*Decisions on funding:* Full consensus easily reached to fully fund kiosk (\$250) and alewife (\$5,000) projects. Since the Concord Land trust has a match deadline consensus was to fund this project for \$5,000. Funding the Framingham invasives control for \$5,000 had 9 in favor and 1 opposed. Hudson schools is requesting \$10,000 but the remaining RSC Community Fund monies are less than \$10,000. S Bursky will gather more information on this request and suggests voting at the December party. Marlborough proposal was not generally supported but can try to help them locate resources. Musketquid will also be tabled until the holiday meeting to provide time to talk with the organization about the possibility of soliciting donations of some materials and alternative funding. Motion made to fund the Eagle Scout kiosk project for \$250, the Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust alewife count for \$5,000, the Concord Land Trust October Farm purchase at \$5,000 and the Framingham Saxonville invasives control for \$5,000, (Field Juma/Brown). MSV with 1 opposed.

	\$24,620	Available	
	\$250	\$24,370	Kiosk
	\$5,000	\$19,370	LPCF alewife
pending		\$19,370	Cardboard Boat Race
	\$5,000	\$14,370	Concord Land Trust
	\$5,000	\$9,370	Framingham Invasives
pending		\$9,370	Hudson Schools buses
			Marlborough- not funded

### **Annual report**

The Annual Report discussion is tabled until next meeting. No one had objections to the option of writing the report to cover an RSC funding year instead of the calendar year. Town reps should submit items to A Slugg and S Bursky who will modify the annual report as needed. S Bursky asked town reps to send her their town's deadline for submittals and any size or other restrictions/requirements.

### **Updates:**

-The state-wide drought continues despite some recent rain.

- Emailing updates prior to the meeting will continue the help save time at meetings.
- January 24<sup>th</sup> is the next full meeting with the holiday party set for 14<sup>th</sup> December with details to follow. If Sudbury schools are closed, the Refuge is closed. A conference call may be considered if weather complicates meeting at the Refuge. The meeting will return to a 7 PM start time as the earlier start time has proven too problematic for some reps.
- If any Rep has new business, please email A Slugg and S Bursky as soon as possible.
- A Slugg thanked reps for responding to query and she did sign on to Green Budget letter on behalf of the RSC.
- A Slugg also sent out the beaver letter to the Conservation Commission.

Motion to adjourn at 8:55 PM, (Field Juma/Brown). MSV.