



Sudbury, Assabet and Concord
Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council
Minutes, May 31, 2016 Meeting

Present: Anne Slugg (Sudbury), Mary Antes (Wayland- alt), Elissa Brown (Concord), Sarah Bursky (NPS), Cindy Delpapa (State), Bill Fadden (Framingham), Jamie Fosburgh (NPS), Ralph Hammond (Bedford), Libby Herland (USFWS), Jim Meadors (Lincoln), Tom Sciacca (Wayland), Kate Tyrrell (SVT).

Absent: Nancy Bryant (SuAsCo Community Council), Lisa Eggleston (SVT-alt), Alison Field-Juma (OARS), Betsy Gallagher (Billerica), Karen Pelto (State), Steve Perlman (Carlisle),

Meeting called to order at 7:02

Minutes:

Motion made to accept April minutes as presented, (Brown/Sciacca). MSV.

RiverFest:

S. Bursky provided an update on RiverFest planning in addition to providing copies of the RiverFest events brochure. The on-line listing was scheduled to be posted and live today. Reps were asked to disseminate brochures throughout the watershed. Chair Slugg asked reps to note how many brochures they leave at a location and retrieve and count leftovers a few days after RiverFest. This will provide some information on the usefulness of a printed events listing. Given the cost of the creating the brochure it is wise to ascertain the effectiveness of the printed brochure. Reps provided S. Bursky with locations they will leave brochures and suggestions on other local information outlets.

The River Steward Awards are settled with thanks to M. Antes for handling many of the details and her team of R. Hammond and E. Brown with S Bursky convening the selection committee. The party preparations are on-going. The one day event license has been obtained with a big thanks to K. Tyrrell for agreeing to take the TIPS training needed for the license approval. Wayland Stop & Shop and Concord Tea Cakes have agreed to donate food. People will be needed to help set up before the event and break-down after. A. Slugg, L. Herland, C. Delpapa and the Faddens volunteered for post party clean-up and R. Hammond, M. Antes, S. Bursky and C. Delpapa will be there for pre-party set up.

20 Years of Success:

J. Fosburgh introduced this new effort on the part of the NPS Wild & Scenic program. The NPS will be providing the RSC an additional \$5,000 this year to produce a document capturing and celebrating our 20 years of activities and successes. The product will be on-line and include a modest printing of the completed product. The intent is to compile statistics on how the limited funding provided to the RSC

coupled with considerable volunteer efforts have been used to make a difference in the rivers/watershed. The product should provide details on how the NPS funding has been used and the impact generated as a way to inform Congress on the value of the Wild & Scenic program. The product may be considered a compilation of RSC accomplishments. The timeline is one year. The Lower Delaware has completed their report, (40 pages worth) - likely not the best model for the RSC. C. Delpapa and A. Slugg volunteered to work on this effort. It was suggested this may be a good project to involve interns. Reps are encouraged to send along their ideas especially suggestions on what metrics to use to assess our effectiveness.

Water Flow Subcommittee:

B. Fadden provided an update on the potential of applying for priority project status with the Div of Ecological Restoration for the low flow issue in the Sudbury River. He suggested applying for technical assistance to determine what flows should be throughout the river system. J. Fosburgh supported working toward a more natural flow regime and not just a static minimum flow. T. Sciacca questioned the meaning of a natural flow regime given the millennia of alteration to the watershed. June 21st is the due date to apply for priority project status and B. Fadden believes the RSC can be the applicant. He asked if the RSC would like to view the response before submittal or let the Flow Subcommittee prepare and submit. The consensus was to share the application before submittal. Reps interested in the committee discussion should let the A. Slugg know. L. Herland requested being on the email chain but does not have the time to be a full participant at the moment. One additional action by the Flow Subcommittee was to meet with Alison Roy about a follow-up study in the Sudbury River. The meeting went well, action items were produced and the committee is reassessing a mussel study focus.

Bylaws next steps and membership requirements:

With the new bylaw in place, Chair Slugg felt it an opportune time to revisit RSC membership. There is a mix of members who attend regularly, some who are less frequent participants and some who have not attended in a year or more. The committee is also shy of the required alternates. A. Slugg asked Reps to work on identifying a potential alternate and to report their progress at the June meeting. Potential alternates should be informed that regular meeting attendance is preferred as the effectiveness of the RSC is in participation, input and energy. S. Bursky offered to help Reps identify alternates and encourage participation. Brief discussion about the time of the meeting ensued. A suggestion was made to have a poll to ascertain the best time to meet. An additional suggestion was made to have Reps and alternates RSVP for meeting or, alternately, informs S. Bursky about inability to attend. More discussion at the next meeting.

Updates:

Concord Village Junction –E. Brown summarized the plans for the Concord Village Junction development proposed for 12.8 acres of land on the Assabet River provided to the town of Concord by the State prison system to use as affordable living, (the proposed development will be assisted living). The “Village” will be a full 200 ft. from the river. The town held a charrette to gather input on 5 potential uses of this donated land. The topic areas included: trails and amenities (people were satisfied with some benches and little more); car top boat access area or paddler’s rest stop or board walk/fishing

pier, (attendees did not think another access point was needed in this river reach nor was there support for a fishing pier). People did advocate for invasive species removal.

Fish Restoration- R. Hammond attended the main presentation. K. Pelto was not present to provide a more detailed report.

DEP proposed NPDES Delegation- A. Field-Juma not present to report.

Assabet Avenue drainage project- Neither J. Fosburgh or E. Brown have any new information from the town.

New business:

Women of the Book- S. Bursky explained Women of the Book is a public-private partnership, once associated with the Library of Congress, to advance the reading of books. This initiative has a 'River of Words' project and would like to partner with local groups. A discussion ensued around the link to the W&S outstandingly remarkable attribute of the area's literary legacy. The project may be a nice fit with RSC Community Grants.

CISMA public lands corps cooperative agreement- Unfortunately due to the complexities of CAs, a formal collaboration between MA Audubon, USFWS and NPS could not be completed in time to apply for this year's funding. This means funding for water chestnut removal (\$20,000 public land corps funds) will not be available. Every effort will be made to try and obtain advance notice of funding in coming years to allow time to work through the details of a collaboration between the three partnering groups.

River Story- T. Sciacca hosted the first storytelling at the Wayland library. He felt the story was not very good but did get feedback from two other parents with young children who both loved the event. Their children (around 10 years old) also loved the story. Kids enjoyed learning ASL signing. Parents learned they could rent out boats at the Southbridge Boat House.

Other new business- R. Hammond brought up some input he received from a friend reporting considerable number of trees blocking the upper river. Tree removal poses significant dangers and should not be done without local Con Comm approval and people with experience to ensure it is done safely and in an ecological informed manner. In Massachusetts there is no agency specifically responsible for clearing passage on waterways.

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 28th.

Viewed video [5 Miles Astride the River](#).

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 (Brown/Sciacca).