

RIVER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
October 28, 2014

Present: Mary Antes, Wayland; Doug and Aviva Brooks, Concord; Cindy Delpapa, Commonwealth, Lisa Eggleston, SVT; Bill Fadden, Framingham; Alison Field-Juma, OARS; Ralph Hammond, Bedford; Libby Herland, US Fish and Wildlife; Jim Meadors, Lincoln; Tom Sciacca, Wayland; Kate Tyrrell, SVT

Absent: Nancy Bryant, SUASCO Community Council; Betsy Gallagher, Billerica; Steve Pearlman, Carlisle; Anne Slugg, Sudbury; Jamie Fosburgh, National Park Service

Cindy Delpapa called the meeting to order at 7:07. Introductions were made and the new SVT member/business manager, Kate Tyrrell, was welcomed. The minutes of September 23, 2014 were approved as amended (verification of the Route 20 sewer crossing) (Herland/A. Brooks). There was one abstention.

MA Rivers Alliance Membership

Because the budget included \$100 for the membership, there was no need to vote to pay for the membership to the MA Rivers Alliance.

Partnership Rivers Gathering

A Partnership Rivers gathering is scheduled for November 9th and 10th in New Jersey. Cindy will email the agenda; any member wishing to participate by telephone should let Cindy know. The agenda will include a discussion about the portion of funding the Park Service takes from the W&S Rivers' budget. Jamie will invite the director to come to New England at another time. His presentation of the history of the W&S Rivers includes a section on funding.

Flow Study

Libby highlighted the preliminary report that was emailed to the Council by Jamie. It describes the stream characteristics from Saxonville to Heard Pond based on samples taken in July and August. The species list includes mussels, several fish species, and lots of eels. (If a pond fish is found in a river, it means the river is acting more like a pond.) Libby and Alison would like another year of sampling before the report is finalized. Libby is willing to contribute some money for some analysis of the data.

Alison said she hears from politicians that the Birch Road wells will either be reactivated or the land will be sold to a developer. There are questions about how much land is developable and whether there are alternatives to development. Lisa said the land is subject to SWMI based on withdrawals from 2003, when the wells were not in use.

Family Friendly Map

The new maps will be distributed through OARS, SVT, Great Meadows, local Conservation Commissions, and public libraries. Tom suggested talking to children's librarians about the maps and asking them to hand them out rather than leaving a pile to be picked up and discarded. There should be a link to the map on the various websites.

Financial and Treasurer's Report

Jamie is working with Kate Tyrrell, the new business manager at SVT, to get a handle on the RSC's finances and to reformat the treasurer's report to show spending against the original budget, including a breakout of the small grants program.

November-December Combined Meeting

The next meeting will be December 2nd at SVT. Members are invited to bring something to share to celebrate the holidays. Jamie will give his W & S presentation; agenda items should be sent to Cindy. Alison will invite State Representative Carolyn Dykema to a future meeting; she works with Senator Jamie Eldridge on water infrastructure issues.

Budget, Project Proposals

At the January 27th meeting, our partners will provide an update of their activities. Proposals will be due in February. Cindy said that the proposal format will be slightly revised. It will still include notice of the 18 month deadline for using the funds and add a request to keep track of volunteer hours/in-kind donations. The budget will be on the agenda in March.

There was a discussion of the 2013 unspent funding awarded to the SUASCO Community Council. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to reallocate this funding (Sciacca/Fadden).

Alison raised the issue of delays in reimbursing project expenses. Small grants can be paid up-front; partners are reimbursed. Libby suggested having proposals be submitted in the summer with funding to begin in October. Alison pointed out that there is an element of risk because the budget has not been passed. Cindy will talk with Jamie about the issue.

New Business

SWMI regulations have been passed and will be put in place in November. While they are not perfect, they are much better and will change the face of water allocation in Massachusetts.

Alison reported that American White Water contacted OARS about forming a coalition to get more rivers into the W&S program and thus keep out dams. There has been little enthusiasm for the idea.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to adjourn (Herland/Field-Juma). The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.