

RIVER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

March 24, 2015

Present: Mary Antes, Wayland; Aviva Brooks, Concord; Cindy Delpapa, Commonwealth, Bill Fadden, Framingham; Alison Field-Juma, OARS; Libby Herland, US Fish and Wildlife; Jim Meadors, Lincoln; Tom Sciacca, Wayland; Kate Tyrrell, SVT; Jamie Fosburgh, National Park Service

Absent: Doug Brooks, Concord; Nancy Bryant, SUASCO Community Council; Lisa Eggleston, SVT; Betsy Gallagher, Billerica; Ralph Hammond, Bedford; Steve Pearlman, Carlisle; Anne Slugg, Sudbury

Guests: Christa Collins

Cindy Delpapa called the meeting to order at 7:06. The minutes of February 24, 2015 were unanimously approved (Field-Juma/A. Brooks).

Old Business

DC Trip/PWSR Letter: Alison reported on her trip to Washington where she had good conversations with the staff of Partnership River delegates. Cindy met with aides for Senators Markey and Warren about the FY 16 budget. They were provided with a copy of the annual report and a fact sheet that included an estimate of volunteer hours. All of our delegates signed on to the Dear Colleague letter urging full funding of the Wild and Scenic Rivers budget. It will go on to members of the Senate asking them to support the numbers in the president's budget (which is for less than full funding). It would be good to harness the influence of the organization that supports national parks to support full funding for W&S rivers.

Riverfest: Aviva and Cindy are putting together a to-do list and a list of people to be invited to the party before Riverfest. The invitations will be electronic.

Storyteller: An RFP was sent to two storytellers requesting proposals for a story about the rivers and performances in each RSC community utilizing a Park Service grant. There was one response with a budget of \$6,420. Libby will fund one performance at \$500 and the goal is to have each town pay for one performance. The first performance will be at Riverfest. The story will be 45 minutes long and suitable for children age 4 and up. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to approve the hiring of a storyteller (Field-Juma/Tyrrell). Cindy will send information to each town to request funding for a town performance.

New Hire: Cindy reported that we have an authorization to go to the Personnel Committee on April 7th to get a position description and begin advertising.

New Business

Annual Report: Cindy is looking for volunteer writers and new pictures for the 2014 annual report. It will include the leverage information that Alison put together for her Washington trip. Ideas should be sent to Cindy. Alison will email the leverage handout. She also said that the new website has a gallery of photos with space for titles and photographers' names.

Stone's Bridge: Tom asked for the Council's support for repair of two arches of Stone's Bridge and the purchase of an adjacent property, both on the Wayland Annual Town Meeting warrant. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to strongly support Wayland's efforts to stabilize Stone's Bridge and purchase adjacent property (Sciacca/Fadden). Bill asked that the Wayland town administrator contact Framingham regarding the bridge.

Oxbow: Bill reported that the MWRA got a permit to remove a beaver dam in the Oxbow because it endangered the aqueduct. He said that the RSC should educate the MWRA at the district manager level.

Damonville Dam Removal: Alison would like a letter of support for removal of the Damonville Dam. It will improve the recreational value and could enable the Wild and Scenic portion of the river to be extended. This would take an act of Congress. There was general consensus to support the project. The town of Concord will also submit a letter; letters are due next week.

Discussion of the Annual Work Plan and Priorities

The purpose of the meeting is to inform the RSC's funding discussions. The RSC through the Park Service has cooperative agreements with two agencies: one with SVT for fiscal management and two with OARS, for water quality monitoring and for Riverfest and web management. Two options were proposed for moving forward; one is to tell the two agencies what we want them to do and the second is to ask for proposals from the two organizations telling the RSC what they propose to do. The RSC anticipates a budget of \$99,500.

Proposed priorities:

- Legislative outreach
 - Build relationships with government representatives
- Education
 - City residents, adults, youth
 - Junior River Ranger program
 - Forum on drinking water, water workshops
- Town representatives
 - Meet with decision-makers, including Conservation Commission to put rivers on their radar
 - Send comment letters to relevant town boards
 - Many town Conservation Commissions have monthly coffees to discuss issues and build support
 - Put RSC's annual report on the town's website
- Water quality/NPDES permits
- Water quality monitoring work with MWRA, DCR
- Land protection
 - Opportunistic, long timeline to cultivate donors
 - Could focus on headwaters
 - Could set aside money like the CPA
- Research
 - More work on mussels

- Follow-up on the Sudbury Flow Study
- Comment on the Water Management Act
- Small grants
 - Broader outreach
- Riverfest
- River access: improve Route 20 access
 - More outreach

Other comments: Partner organizations could do a better job crediting their funding organizations.

Cindy said the RFP will be sent out over the weekend and applicants will have three weeks to respond. At the next meeting, non-funded organizations will make funding decisions. There will also be a Rivers Edge update. The committee is preparing an RFP that will include information about getting water to the site and it would like RSC feedback.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12.

Priorities Discussion
3-25-15

Priority	Why?	Notes
Legislative Outreach	Funding & Policy Support	RSC Activity
Targeted Town Outreach	Local Gov and board awareness important as the myriad of local decisions are made	RSC Appointed Members, RSC as a Whole. Conservation Coffees as example.
Water Quality Monitoring	Permits still key to improving WQual. Need baseline and trend data.	OARS Volunteer monitoring program - - covers all WSR Segments
Water Quantity/Flow	Natural Flow regimes critical. Low flow issues – Sudbury R. study shows impairment. See “restoration” vision. MWRA Res management	DCR Flow Restoration Project?? Link To Birch Rd Wells? Have established basis in science. Link to WMA Permitting/SWMI
Land Protection	Ongoing key priority in watershed & WSR segments	SVT Lead for RSC. Targeted approach? Or opportunistic? Both? Climate Resiliency?
Science – Mussel/Flow? Other Scientific Studies & research	Low Flows believed to impair species diversity, location, etc.	Who would conduct? RSC would need to scope and bid?
Outreach - Forums	Nationwide Awareness of Water crisis increasing – Calif. We have our own critical issues in basin.	RSC? OARS?

Small Grants	Use as outreach tool to Communities & diverse groups	RSC Members “advertise” in their communities
RiverFest	Major RSC Outreach Vehicle	
River Access Rte 20		