

**RIVER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL**  
**July 22, 2014**

Present: Mary Antes, Wayland; Doug and Aviva Brooks, Concord; Cindy Delpapa, Commonwealth, Lisa Eggleston, SVT; Bill Fadden, Framingham; Alison Field-Juma, OARS; Betsy Gallagher, Billerica; Libby Herland, US Fish and Wildlife; Jim Meadors, Lincoln;; Anne Slugg, Sudbury; Lee Steppacher, National Park Service

Absent: Nancy Bryant, SUASCO Community Council; Nancy Hallen, SVT; Ralph Hammond, Bedford; Steve Pearlman, Carlisle; Tom Sciacca, Wayland

Cindy Delpapa called the meeting to order at 7:11. The minutes of May 27, 2014 were unanimously approved with one correction: the date of the minutes that were approved was April 22, not April 27.

**SVT's Work on the Elliot Property**

Lee said that SVT is putting in a canoe landing on the Elliot property in Carlisle, taking into account the fluctuation in water level. Britton's violet, an endangered plant, was found on the property. Laura Mattei and her crew are pulling up glossy buckthorn.

**Riverfest Rehash**

The 35-mile bike ride was well attended; Russ Cohen's foraging ramble attracted 65 people. The pontoon boat ride was featured on Chronicle. The sunrise birding, Bill's paddle, the Wayland photo walk, and Grist Mill rubber duck race events all went well. The Concord fishing class was over-subscribed and Libby reported that 125 people attended the events at Great Meadows. Musketaquid changed its solstice activities, causing some confusion. It is becoming less boat-oriented. Alison thanked everyone.

**CISMA Funding Proposal**

The RSC has revised its funding policy to have projects completed within 18 months. CISMA has had small amounts of money left from its RSC grants in 2012 and 2013. Lee suggested that the remaining moneys be used to support some of the projects CISMA was unable to fund. There was consensus to support Lee's recommendation.

Libby said that CISMA Coordinator Amber Carr does a great job managing the organization's money. Bill asked how long the CISMA is expected to exist. Libby said that is up to its members; membership is continuing to increase and it continues to receive grants.

**Updates**

*Route 4 Boat Launch:* Lee said that two projects with Mass Highway are incomplete. One is the Route 4 boat launch and the second is the Pelham Island bridge boat access. The Route 4 project is going to the Conservation Commission with a Notice of Intent. There is no action on the Pelham Island access yet.

*SWMI Regs Comment Letters:* A small group of RSC members worked with Lee to put together a comment letter regarding the new SWMI regulations. They learned at the last minute that the

regulations included a provision to eliminate the 10-citizen appeal process; comments were added to oppose that provision. OARS also submitted a letter with similar comments and Mass Rivers Alliance spoke to the cost proposal.

*Family Friendly Map:* The map will go to the printer tomorrow in a different format than originally planned.

*Traveling Photo Exhibit:* Anne said that the exhibit is now at the Billerica Library. On August 1 it will move to the Framingham Library and on September 1 to the Wayland Library. The Concord Library will not host the exhibit and there has been no response from the Town of Concord yet. The exhibit will be shown in Sudbury next fall.

*Flow Study:* The scope of work has been completed and a UMass student will do sampling during low flow periods. Framingham State is contributing some money to the project. Libby said she has volunteers to help and she can provide housing if needed.

Cindy said that Nancy Bryant's workshop will be held in October or November.

### **New Business**

*Nyanza-Sponsored Billerica Dam Study:* Alison announced a public information session to kick off a study evaluating the feasibility of restoring populations of diadromous fish to the upper Concord River watershed. The meeting will be held at the Middlesex Canal Museum and Visitors Center in Billerica on Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9.

*Nyanza Stream Restoration RFP:* Several streams were mentioned as possibilities for stream restoration: the stream at the headwaters of the Sudbury River in Westborough, Cochituate Brook, and Beaver Dam Brook, which has been identified as a priority for restoration.

*Environmental Bond Bill:* The bond bill is in conference committee. The bill includes \$5 million dollars for the control of invasive species. The Birch Road wells in Framingham are mentioned in that section in one version of the bill. There were questions about why the wells are included in the environmental bond bill since there are other sources of funding for protection of wells.

*Tracking Volunteer Hours:* Cindy reiterated the need to track volunteer time to verify the inkind contributions the RSC gets. She asked for feedback on the form she has created. It was suggested that members could record their time on the form at each board meeting.

*NPS Update:* Lee said that the job description has been drafted and Jamie is talking to his boss in Philadelphia about filling the position. It is probable that no action will be taken until Congress approves a budget. Meanwhile Jamie will be the contact. Lee has three boxes of older brochures about the rivers that can be distributed. Libby will take some of them.

*August Boat Trip:* Betsy will host the boat trip if there is enough water in the second half of August.

*Eel Survey:* Libby reported that the eel survey will be conducted again between August 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. There will be a talk on the study at the September meeting of the Friends of the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge.

*Other:* The USGS in Northborough is doing some simple sampling up and down stream of waste water treatment plants, looking for emerging contaminants. Lee wondered whether it might be related to the Concord WWTP appeal.

Lee's last day is tomorrow. She would like to remain on the distribution list. She was again thanked for her excellent work.

Nancy Hallen has left SVT. She would be happy to continue on the board but she believes that it is useful for SVT to have a staff person represent the organization. She too would like to stay on the list.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43.