

RIVER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
January 28, 2014

Present: Mary Antes, Wayland; Doug and Aviva Brooks, Concord; Cindy Delpapa, Commonwealth, Bill Fadden, Framingham; Alison Field-Juma, OARS; Nancy Hallen, SVT; Libby Herland, US Fish and Wildlife; Steve Pearlman, Carlisle; Tom Sciacca, Wayland; Anne Slugg, Sudbury; Lee Steppacher, National Park Service

Absent: Nancy Bryant, SUASCO Community Council; Lisa Eggleston, SVT; Betsy Gallagher, Billerica; Ralph Hammond, Bedford; Jim Meador, Lincoln

Guests: Amber Carr, Mass. Audubon; Sally Farrow, Mass Audubon Drumlin Farm; Christa Collins, SVT

Cindy Delpapa called the meeting to order at 7:09. The minutes of December 3, 2013 were approved (Field-Juma/Herland). There were two abstentions).

Progress Reports 2013

RiverSchools Sally Farrow from Mass Audubon thanked the RSC for support and said this was a fabulous project. This year, RiverSchools was able to hold a meet-up with students from several districts who shared what each group was learning. Members of City Corp became mentors.

OARS: Alison said that the water quality program will start up in a few months. There will be an awards ceremony in a couple of weeks when 10-year awards will be given to quite a few people. Alison focused on OARS policy and advocacy work, including wastewater discharges, discussion of wastewater alternatives in Concord, discussion of revitalizing an old mill in Gleasondale-Stow, SWMI, and planning the biennial Watershed Roundtable on March 8th. OARS will make a full presentation of the water quality monitoring results at the RSC's March meeting.

SUASCO Watershed Community Committee: Nancy emailed her report to Council members. Her stormwater workshop will be held in April based in part on information gathered from meetings Nancy had with Selectmen during the past year. Steven said that the new draft stormwater regulations should come out at the end of February.

CISMA: Amber Carr thinks the CISMA small grants program is great because funds can go to organizations that don't have access to larger grant funds while the NYANZA money is targeted to remediation projects. Invasive weed pulls would not be nearly as successful without small grant funds. Libby said the funding helps groups stay focused and work together. The funds also purchased a portable microphone.

RSC Small Grants Program: Lee said that the small grants program was started in 2006 and now has more applications than funding. Last year, \$8,000 was awarded to four groups: Mass Rivers Alliance-sponsored Stream Crossing workshop, Wayland Conservation Commission for the

purchase of mats for the Route 20 boat ramp, SUASCO River School Network, and SUASCO turtle headstarting curriculum.

Trail Maps: The family-friendly map design is very expensive to print and fold; one estimate is \$1.86 each for 5,000 copies. It could be converted to a different layout. Alison is looking into map formats for another project which she will share with the group. .

SVT: Christa Collins reported on SVT's land protection efforts over the last year. The Mt. Pisgah project is the largest SVT has ever undertaken. Four projects in the proposal were closed in 2013: the Elliott property on the Concord River in Carlisle, which may be the site of a boat launch if SVT is awarded a Public Access Grant; in Acton, a conservation restriction (CR) on land at the end of the Bruce Freeman Trail; and two CRs in Hopkinton.

Sudbury River Flow Study: Lee said the RSC provided a seed money grant of \$10,000. Framingham is committed to the project but the RSC was not invited to submit a full proposal to the Massachusetts Environmental Trust. A professor from UMass is interested in the project. Work will continue on this project.

Project Reviews: No funds are allocated to this work but it is important and time-consuming.

Website: The original funding plus an additional allocation is being used for web maintenance and upgrading the web site so that OARS can do more of the day-to-day maintenance.

Treasurers' Report

Lee distributed a budget summary update as of 12/30/2013.

Ideas for 2014 Funding

Lee believes that the strategic plan captures what the RSC has been doing. Steve suggested disseminating model by-laws and best practices as well as books about rivers and why they are important. The RSC could give a small grant to a story teller. Tom suggested that it be history-oriented, perhaps about Native Americans. The Carlisle library has a section on river books. Anne said the Sudbury Library will have an exhibit of before and after pictures of water chestnut harvesting. She is willing to do the leg work necessary to rotate the exhibit from library to library. Mary said that the Sudbury Valley Nature Photographers had an exhibit at the Wayland library that could perhaps be mounted at other libraries. The RSC gave a small grant to photographer Barbara Bosworth. Libby said that Fish and Wildlife never received her photographs.

Libby suggested keeping an eye on what is happening to eels in the river. The RSC could invite USF&W ecological services manager to give a talk about eels.

Funding Criteria

Lee said there is no guidance on how long grantees have to complete a project. She recommends 12 to 18 months but said that extensions could be given for good cause. Tom suggested that additional money not be given to a grantee that has not completed the first project. A statement that grant funds that cannot be expended within the timeline provided will lose funding unless an

extension is specifically requested will be added to the application form. No new grants will be made in those circumstances.

Other wording changes suggested in the funding guidelines: 5. Is the proposal achievable as written within the time period and with the amount of money requested? 8. Does the project build on ongoing efforts by the RSC or its partners or is it part of a larger effort that your organization is part of?

Grant applications will be emailed within the week.

Nominating Committee Report

In Lisa's absence, Lee gave the report of the nominating committee for officers for the next two years: Cindy, chair; Alison, vice chair; Mary, secretary; and Anne, treasurer. Aviva was thanked for her four years as treasurer. There were no nominations from the floor. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to accept the slate of officers (A. Brooks/Herland).

New Business

Riverfest will be June 21-22. The party will be Friday, June 20 at Wolbach Farm. The solstice celebration will be part of Riverfest and will take place on Saturday [note: changed to Sunday]. The initial planning meeting is February 11 from 3 to 5 at Great Meadows.

There will be a meeting on subdivision development in Sudbury on March 2nd. Julia Blatt will speak on Mass. Water Wars in Newton.

Bill was acknowledged for his calculations regarding drawdowns from Reservoirs 1 and 2 in Framingham.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57pm.