

RIVER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

April 28, 2015

Present: Mary Antes, Wayland; Aviva and Doug Brooks, Concord; Cindy Delpapa, Commonwealth, Bill Fadden, Framingham; Ralph Hammond, Bedford; Libby Herland, US Fish and Wildlife; Jim Meadors, Lincoln; Tom Sciacca, Wayland; Anne Slugg, Sudbury; Kate Tyrrell, SVT; Jamie Fosburgh, National Park Service

Absent: Nancy Bryant, SUASCO Community Council; Lisa Eggleston, SVT; Alison Field-Juma, OARS; Betsy Gallagher, Billerica; Steve Pearlman, Carlisle;

Guests: Becky Stanizzi, Wayland's Rivers Edge Project, Tom Tarpey, Potential Concord Representative to the RSC

Cindy Delpapa called the meeting to order at 7:00. She asked the members to email to her as soon as possible the addresses of invitees to the Riverfest party. Introductions were made. The minutes of March 24, 2015 were unanimously approved with one correction (an s added to Meadors) (Herland/Sciacca).

Rivers Edge

Becky Stanizzi reported that the Rivers Edge Committee is working on an RFP for developers that it hopes to release in June. The nearest public water access to the project is on the east side of the river on Route 20 near Russell's Garden Center. There are two ways for water pipes to cross the river: attach the pipes to the Route 20 bridge or drill under the river. She asked the RSC for its recommendation for getting water to the project. She said it might be necessary to use a small pump.

Discussion of the two methods followed. Regarding the first option, it would be cheaper to make repairs to pipes attached to the bridge. The pipes could be covered to minimize them visually. If attached to the bridge, it was suggested that they be attached on the south side but that would mean crossing Route 20 twice since the water source is on the north side of the road. There was a preference for going under the river using directional drilling. The RSC would not want the project to disrupt the boating season.

Kate Tyrrell left the meeting at 7:30 when the funding discussion began.

Discussion of Funding Applications

Cindy distributed a worksheet Jamie prepared listing each proposed project with the amount received in 2014 and the amount requested in 2015.

Riverfest: Lee recommended that the new NPS staff person reclaim Riverfest, which was transitioned to OARS when Lee shared her time with the Taunton RSC, as she found it a great way to meet people, make connections and learn the watershed. This year's funding request covers the expenses for design and printing of the brochure for this year as well as next year, (because Riverfest occurs before the NPS completes its budget allocations in July/August). As a result of this expense moving to the RSC, OARS funding request for Riverfest will be reduced.

CISMA: The Nyanza funding is drying up and there is no state support for the CISMA. The request of \$15,000 is to fund the coordinator (\$10,000) to write five grant proposals; \$4,500 is for the small grants program and \$500 for administrative expenses including hosting the website.

SVT: SVT’s request for \$25,000 is for three specific activities: ongoing land protection work; prioritization planning and outreach to show communities the potential impacts of climate change and unplanned development; and review and update of the W&S unprotected lands inventory. The RSC was pleased that the activities are more targeted to the river. It may request that at least one targeted town be in the W&S area.

River Schools: Mass Audubon requested \$7,420 for River Schools to cover transportation to get students to the river. Nyanza funding is coming to an end. The project has received excellent evaluations and the RSC believes it is important to get students from less affluent communities to the river.

OARS: The request for \$24,309 is for water quality monitoring, policy, and engagement. The RSC believes that OARS could improve its water quality reporting, which is quite dense, for communities and the general public—perhaps a one-page fact sheet distilling the key points for a lay audience who may not tackle reading the whole report. It questioned the need for a public forum and suggested that OARS might apply for a small grant for that purpose.

Small Grants: The RSC discussed the small grants program and the possibility of making grants up to \$10,000. Cindy will work on a letter with the scope of small grants that have been funded.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to award the following grants (Fadden/Slugg).

PROJECT	PROPOSER	REQUEST	‘14 APPROVED	‘15 APPROVED
RSC Fin. Admin.	RSC & SVT	\$2,000	\$1,700	\$2,000
RSC Web Maint.	RSC	\$600	\$540	\$600
MA Rivrs Alliance Membership	RSC	\$100	\$100	\$100
RSC Small Grants	RSC	\$20,000	\$8,000	\$19,525
Riverfest 2015	RSC	\$2,550	\$2,505	\$2,550
Riverfest 2016	RSC	\$2,550	\$2,505	\$2,550
Riverfest Party ‘16	RSC	\$500	\$500	\$500
River Schools	MA Audubon	\$7,420	\$3,000 (+ \$790 Small Grant)	\$7,420
Land Protection	SVT	\$25,000	\$19,000	\$24,000
Riverfest ‘16 & Outreach	OARS	\$9,078	\$8,000	\$2,000
WQ Monitoring, Policy, & Engagement	OARS	\$24,309	\$23,600	\$20,255
SuAsCo CISMA Small Grants & Admin. Support	SuAsCo CISMA	\$15,000	\$4,000 (+ \$2,000 for CCLT Fragmites Control)	\$14,000
TOTAL REQUEST		\$109,107		\$95,500

Old Business

Riverfest: It was suggested that Riverfest party attendees sign in. There are four River Stewardship Award nominees; Jamie is putting together a selection committee. Federal money cannot be used to buy alcohol so each member is asked to bring a bottle of wine and a bottle of beer to the party.

Story Teller: Cindy asked for names of people who could provide background information for the story teller. Community reps should identify a venue and funding for the story teller in his/her community. The cost is \$500 plus \$100 for a sign interpreter per performance. One source of funding might be the local Cultural Councils. The project should be completed within the National Park Service Centennial year of 2016.

Land and Conservation Fund: It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to support full funding for the Land and Conservation Fund by signing on to the Trust for Public Lands support letter (Sciacca/Hammond).

Goodbye: Doug will not be able to attend the next meeting so he said how much he has enjoyed being a member of the RSC. Members thanked him for his many contributions.

New Business

Cindy said the governor has issued an executive order (EO 562) sunseting all regulations by march 31, 2016 unless the regulations meet a 7 part test including not being more stringent than federal requirements and not having an adverse economic effect. DEP has already pulled some regulations set for review because of the order.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05.