



**Sudbury, Assabet and Concord**  
**Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council**  
**April 25th, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

RSC member present: Anne Slugg (Sudbury/Chair), Sarah Bursky (NPS), Cindy Delpapa (state), Bill Fadden (Framingham), Alison Field Juma (OARS), Ralph Hammond (Bedford), Marlies Henderson (Billerica), Libby Herland (USFWS), Jim Lagerbom (SVT-Alt), Jim Meadors (Lincoln- Alt), Karen Pelto (State), Kate Tyrrell (SVT), Tom Sciacca (Wayland)

RSC members not in attendance: M Antes (Wayland-Alt), E Brown (Concord), C Dugan (Lincoln), J Piantedosi (Bedford- Alt)

Meeting called to order by Chair Slugg at 7:05 pm.

*Minutes-* Motion made to accept the meeting minutes of the 28 March, 2017 meeting, (Field Juma/Pelto). MSV.

*Quarterly Financial Report* - B Fadden provided an handout summarizing RSC quarterly finances. The RSC expended \$2,485 for the retreat facilitator and \$25 for the Riverfest party liquor license during this quarter. K Tyrrell emphasized the need to have all outstanding work billed by 1 August 2017. T Sciacca mentioned that Wayland 'dropped the ball' on funding for the boat ramp. RSC could lose existing Cooperative Agreement funds if one of the community grantees does not complete their project by August and the RSC is unable to spend those funds on another project.

*Conservation Plan Update and RSC Retreat follow-up-* S Bursky praised the good work and thoughtful deliberations at the retreat. She remains open to additional feedback on issues. Next step is to frame and describe the pertinent information to create a useful and informative document to disseminate to the towns for their input. The issues generated during the retreat are captured in a list, (see document sent on Monday by S Bursky). The list and supporting discussions needs to be reworked to produce a document W&S towns would be receptive to reading and providing feedback. L Herland recommended RSC use funding to pay S Bursky to write such a document but S Bursky demurred saying she was not an expert on the issues and feels the RSC should ' own this document'.

Discussion ensued about the audience for the plan. The initial list of recipients included: Conservation Commissions, Select Boards (BOS), Parks and Recreation/Open Space Commissions/Boards, legislators and local environmental advocacy groups. The intent is to both garner buy-in and support while increasing the profile of the RSC and the work being done. The plan would also present a list of likely future endeavors for consideration and comment. A general consensus was reached to solicit input from the towns to better understand the issues of interest at the town level. Representatives debated the merits of a scoping session versus meetings in each of the towns. Reps agreed meeting with towns individually would be the most efficacious. The agreed a brief PowerPoint presentation followed by a discussion at a BOS meeting was the best approach. A meeting for the general public would be advantageous if possible. This outreach effort could capitalize on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the federal Wild

& Scenic Program. This would be an opportunity to acquaint new board members and the public with the Wild & Scenic program and process as the study and designation was the last concerted outreach effort. T Sciacca recommended taking the presentation and plan to schools. RSC members agree this would be desirable but would mean a significant delay in finalizing the plan because of the approaching summer break. Presenting at schools would also place a burden on town reps to complete school presentations since S Bursky would be unable to meet with so many schools.

The RSC discussed the content of the update- if the plan should be a comprehensive cataloging of the SuAsCo W&S history in addition to the proposed plan updates or be a brief document covering the emerging 'new' plan. Consensus was not reached as Reps considered what approach would energize a range of existing and potential partners to work in a collaborative manner to implement the plan.

Town reps will be asked to arrange for time on their town's BOS agenda. It is not realistic to arrange meetings in May given it is 'town meeting season', a PowerPoint needs to be developed and it can take some time to get on an agenda. Reps agreed meeting before the end of June, (and the summer vacation season exodus) is best or wait until September when the towns repopulate. There were concerns a long delay would diffuse momentum while others expressed the importance of "getting this right". A suggestion was made to meet with town managers and/or conservation agents in lieu of BOS. This was countered with support for the BOS presentations especially since these meetings are televised on local cable. It was strongly suggested the BOS be given support materials prior to the presentation.

RSC reps initially agreed the presentation should give an overview of the W&S program, the RSC and also be tailored slightly for each community to highlight town-specific efforts. Reps recognized liaising with the Conservation Commission may be the best route to engaging the BOS in some communities. Reps continued to discuss the best scope for the PowerPoint- a brief overview or a more in-depth presentation. Reps also debated having one approach for BOS, (outreach and education) and another for Conservation Commissions, (a working session).

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Reps investigate the two levels of outreach, (select board/ConComm)
- Complete a presentation PowerPoint by mid-May, (S Bursky, K Pelto, C Delpapa, J Meadors)

*Priorities for RFP and grant process* – The organizations receiving RSC partner funding for the past few years have been SVT, OARS, MAS/RiverSchool and CISMA. The questions before the RSC, in preparation for sending out the funding solicitation are:

- u do we have the right list of organizations, ( SVT and OARS are listed as partners in the management plan while MAS/Riverschools & CISMA are not listed but have received partner funding for a few years);
- u should any organization be added or culled;
- u are there specific projects/issues/needs the RSC would like to highlight as a priority for funding?

Suggestion was made to have climate change and resiliency as a focus. Reps engaged in a detailed discussion about issues/projects to support. Consensus was reached to continue to include OARS, SVT and MAS RiverSchool in the partner funding and after further discussion it was agreed CISMA should also remain eligible for partner.

**ACTION ITEM:** An RFP will be sent to all four partners highlighting the issues from the retreat as priorities.

*Riverfest Update-* Possible kick-off party speakers were identified including Congresswoman Clark, Ron McAdow, the author of a recently release book about Thoreau, and Senator Eldridge. K Tyrell has graciously agreed to tend bar again. Reps are asked to think about possible local sources of appetizers for the party and to please get back to S Bursky or A Slugg. The Riverfest postcards were picked up today. Poster will soon be available and brochure will be marked up next week. Event lineup is a nice mix of old and new offerings with an activity center at Great Meadows on Saturday and the Old Manse on Sunday.

*Action Items:*

- *Identify possible food donors for Riverfest kick-off party and report to S Bursky and A Slugg.*
- *Disseminate Riverfest postcards locally.*

*Updates*

CISMA meeting update above.

August Field Trip- M Henderson was please to report she has secured a discount on kayak rentals from a local boat livery for those needing a boat for the August outing. Reps will be polled both on preferred trip route, (upstream or down) and on time and date for the trip.

B Fadden- provided an update and materials relative to the 1.5 MGD release flow showing the flow control gate at the dam half open on a recent trip to the Stearns reservoir. B Fadden requested an email be sent to MWRA/DCR asking for more information on the volume is being released at the current valve opening. If this lower gate position is resulting in flow less than 1.5 MGD, he requested the RSC ask the MWRA/DCR to allow a discharge of at least 1.5 MDG to start. A request was made to write up some background on this issue for new RSC reps.

*Action Items:*

- *Doodle poll to be sent to identify a date/ time for August paddle followed by a Doodle Poll on route (US or DS)*
- *A. Slugg to send email regarding flow volume release to MWRA/DCR.*

Chair Slugg adjourned the meeting at 9:08 PM.