



**Sudbury, Assabet and Concord**  
**Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council**

**Great Meadows NWR**

**Weir Hill Road, Sudbury**

**April 26, 2016**

**Minutes**

RSC Members Present: Mary Antes (Wayland- alt), Elissa Brown (Concord), Sarah Bursky (NPS), Cindy Delpapa (State), Lisa Eggleston (SVT-alt), Bill Fadden (Framingham), Allison Field-Juma (OARS), Ralph Hammond (Bedford), Jim Meadors (Lincoln), Tom Sciacca (Wayland), Anne Slugg (Sudbury- RSC Chair), Kate Tyrrell (SVT)

Members not in attendance: N. Bryant (SuAsCo Community Council), J. Furbeck (OARS-alt), B. Gallagher (BillERICA), L. Herland (USFWS), K. Pelto (State), S. Perlman (Carlisle)

Guests: Jamie Fosburgh (NPS), Tony Toledo (Storyteller), J. Crawford (Bedford)

Meeting called to order at 7:06 PM by Chair.

*Minutes-* Edits to the 29 March minutes made by J. Meadors and A. Field-Juma. Motion made to approve 29 March minutes as edited, (Brown/Fadden). MSV.

Treasurer's Report- Treasurer B. Fadden provided a written financial (expenses) summary. He expressed his thanks to K. Tyrrell and A. Field- Juma for their assistance in explaining the RSC financial system. A question was asked relative to the \$2,000.00 funding amount listed for Riverfest in 'Mod 5' within the SVT CA and if this listing may be duplicative of an equal amount of Riverfest funding in the OARS CA. It was agreed K. Tyrrell, J. Fosburgh and A. Field-Juma will work to resolve the question. A suggestion was made to annotate the Riverfest funding line items with the Riverfest (the year) for which the money is committed. A further request was made to augment the list of Community Grants recipients with the funded project's name, (e.g. OARS-Sudbury River map update).

*River Story- Storyteller:* Details of event planning and PR were discussed with the group. An event flyer was shared. S. Bursky will print out a few copies of the Wayland flyer and send them to T. Sciacca next week. RSC representatives were encouraged to spread the word about the four scheduled performances.

Reactions to the story performed prior to the start of the meeting were aired. Most felt the story was disjoint and lacked a real plot. Currently it is a series of vignettes and bits of historical fact. The history might be too dense for the younger members of the audience as currently incorporated into the story. General agreement was reached to have a good story over 'checking all the boxes' concerning historical, literary and ecological resources of the rivers. More interaction with the audience and some drama was recommended. People were enthusiastic about teaching the audience few pertinent ASL signs. Some concerns were raised about portraying the water monster tale as a traditional indigenous peoples tale if it

is not one. A request was made to include visual aids including a map of the watershed. This addition would help engage the audience and give them a sense of the watershed. Another visual aid suggestion was to include a canoe paddle. S. Bursky and C. Delpapa will relay the additional comments and suggestions to the storyteller and work with him on story improvements.

*RSC Bylaws:* S. Bursky worked to resolve the remaining comments, questions and edits on the latest draft of the draft revised RSC bylaws. She turned to the Management Plan for clarification when applicable. A few remaining questions need to be discussed and resolved. One point needing resolution concerns the voting rights of new member organizations voted onto the RSC. After lengthy discussion consensus was reached to delete the last sentence in Section 2. The next issue discussed focused on the language requiring a unanimous vote of core members to vote in an organization as a non-core member. The preference was to require a two thirds vote of existing core members. Consensus was to also use a two thirds majority, instead of unanimous, vote to remove of a non-core member organization. A further recommendation was to change the Article 7 title from amend to revise as one revises, not amends, bylaws. A concern was voiced that the purpose of the RSC as stated in article 2 only mentions coordination and interaction but does not include key RSC actions including sponsoring/supporting activities, (e.g. Riverfest) or reviewing and commenting on pertinent projects, regulations or issues. It was agreed that the pro-active work of the RSC is covered under Article 4- the implementation of the Management Plan. A suggestion was made to eliminate from the Treasurer's duties the requirement to detail 'payments and receipts'. This change would leave the treasurer to report on 'the true state of the Councils accounts and budget'. Most felt the summary sheet provided earlier did include the payments and receipt requirement adequately and preferred not to change the language. Motion was made to approve the revised bylaws as corrected at this meeting, (Field Juma/Hammond). MSV.

*Riverfest:* S. Bursky reported that the activities for Riverfest are plentiful and varied. She is working on getting a 'save the date' postcard out to the RSC members for dissemination as it is never too early to spread the word about Riverfest. The SuAsCo W&S web page has a Riverfest 'landing page' already in place. The party planning is on-going. People will get a link to a 'Google Doc' with the existing email party invite list. RSC members are encourage to edit, update and add emails. People are also encouraged to recommend possible food donors for the party. Concord Tea Cakes and Wayland Stop & Shop have already been asked.

*Bruce Freeman Interpretive Panel:* S. Bursky has been coordinating and working on the panel with the designer. E. Brown worked directly with Concord staff to get templates and guidance. She also provided an image of the old Rail Road bridge from the 1960's. RSC members are welcome to offer input on the sign content. E. Brown wished to remind the RSC that the design has to be shared with Marsha Rasmussen of Concord before it is finalized.

*Assabet Avenue, Concord Drainage Project:* J. Fosburgh provided an update. The town of Concord has submitted a request to the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) for a new outfall into the river off Assabet Avenue. The town has modified the design to have only one new outfall. He attended the joint review meeting hosted by the ACE. The ACE will wait for the NPS comments before moving forward with the town's request. J. Fosburgh will host a call tomorrow about the new drainage plan and will endeavor to send comments to the ACE by the end of next week. A discussion ensued on the possibility of the RSC submitting comments to the ACE and/or to the town. It was noted that there will be an opportunity to weigh in at the local level, (Conservation Commission). Consensus was to have the RSC jointly sign the

NPS comment letter and to share the letter with the Concord Conservation Commission. A draft of the comment letter will be disseminated to the RSC for input before it is finalized and sent to the ACE.

*Water Flow Sub Committee:* The committee met recently. Attendees worked to develop a committee mission statement. Also discussed was the possibility of flow augmentation to the Sudbury River, the proposed reactivation of the Birch Road well field, the impact of this well field reactivation on aquatic life in the river, and beavers. The committee also weighed the merits of the RSC funding allocated for follow-up to the Sudbury Study going toward a more in-depth study of mussels in Sudbury or a larger study of the Oxbow area. The committee is working to schedule a meeting with the Sudbury River Study's project manager Allison Roy to discuss the follow-up work. Next committee meeting will be in May.

*New Business:*

Sarah's schedule. S. Bursky will be working four days a week, Monday through Friday. She will make every effort to work in the watershed at least once day each week.

W& S Road Crossing Signs. S. Bursky has received one email, from K. Pelto, detailing sign deficiencies. Others are encouraged to send an email with detailed and specific information about sign condition (or lack of a sign) for their community's W&S river crossings. E. Brown reported the Rte 2 Sudbury River sign is faded to the point of illegibility and the Rte 2 Assabet River sign was nearly as faded. For the near future, the signs L. Herland had in storage can be used as replacements while research into fade resistant signs can be completed.

Group email list. A recommendation was made to establish a RSC group email to ease the task of emailing all RSC members. L. Eggleston offered to establish such a list in Google Groups. One need not have a gmail account but will need to accept the invitation when asked to join the RSC Google Group.

MA Rivers Alliance updates. A. Slugg asked if RSC members wished to receive the email alerts sent by MA Rivers Alliance. Sarah and Bill opted to have the alerts forwarded. Consensus was to have the Chair share a particularly pertinent alert with the entire RSC. Requests to sign on to a comment letter will be shared with all of the RSC. If there is consensus to add the RSC to the letter, the Chair will notify MA Rivers Alliance.

River Steward Awards. M. Antes reported she received nine nominations for River Steward Awards. S. Bursky has solicited a panel to select the winners and asked for clarification on how many River Steward Awards are given out each year. Initially the intent was to select an awardee from each of the W&S towns. This approach depleted the pool of available nominees so the committee has been more fluid with the selection process. No clear consensus was reached on how to determine the number of awards to be given. S. Bursky will discuss the possibility of prioritizing awards with those who nominated someone/ some group to see if the number of awards presented can be kept to 2 or 3.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM