

**RIVER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL**  
**September 23, 2014**

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

Absent: Nancy Bryant, SUASCO Community Council; Alison Field-Juma, OARS; Betsy Gallagher, Billerica; Jim Meadors, Lincoln; Steve Pearlman, Carlisle

Cindy Delpapa called the meeting to order at 7:03. The minutes of July 22, 2014 were approved with one abstention.

**Treasurer's Report**

The new bookkeeper at SVT provided Anne with a budget summary. Anne pointed out that more money was spent on web maintenance than had been allocated; she will follow up with Alison. Jamie will meet with the new bookkeeper and bring any issues to the next meeting. It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to accept the treasurer's report (Herland/Sciacca).

**Updates**

*Photo Exhibit:* The photo exhibit has traveled from Billerica to Framingham to Wayland; each location is different and has had a different response. Tom suggested letting the town reps know when the exhibit is coming to their community so they can talk with the librarians, since some library staff were unaware of the exhibit in their facility. Eventually the exhibit will go to Sudbury, Lincoln, Carlisle, and Bedford and finally to Nashoba Brook Bakery in Concord in time for Riverfest. Anne asked for suggestions of other exhibition locations.

*Family Friendly Map:* The 3,000 copies of the map are being shipped to SVT. It will be available for distribution at OARS, area libraries, and the Concord Visitors Center. Other distribution locations should be sent to Cindy. It will also be available online along with links to other trail maps. It was suggested that laminated copies be posted at river access points.

*Pelham Island Bridge:* Jamie said he has no new information. The Billerica bridge NOI was filed on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

*Concord NPDES Appeal Decision:* EPA Region 1 did not provide enough justification for the aluminum and 7Q10 calculations and will be required to submit further explanation. Everything else in the appeal was dismissed. Concord will have to do monitoring of DEHP.

*National Park Service:* Jamie will continue to staff the RSC for the time-being. Five pieces of legislation regarding New England Wild and Scenic are pending so no action to replace Lee will be taken until the future is clearer. Some want to continue a combined Taunton-SUASCO RSC position but it did not work very well. The NPS may come up with some additional funds. There may be more money in the cooperative agreement this year: \$100,000 rather than the \$78,000 of last year.

*Flow Study Status:* Cindy said the study is going well; the low water levels have made it easier to conduct the study. Volunteers are needed next week. Bill questioned why the oxbow was not being studied since it will be most impacted. He suggested that some of the additional cooperative agreement money could be used to study how the natural resources at the oxbow would be impacted. Cindy said that because of inadequate funding for a complete flow study, the focus has been on the field study.

Bill also said that the project manager for the Birch Road wells has not been replaced. It is expected that the USGS will host another stakeholders' meeting to update everyone, see what gaps there are, and ask for more funding.

### **American Whitewater Caucus**

Alison received an email inviting OARS to discuss possible efforts to protect free-flowing rivers. The concern was based on a Department of Energy report recommending more dams. No additional dams were recommended in New England although it may be possible to install turbines at some existing dams. No action will be taken at the present time.

### **CISMA Rapid Response Fund**

CISMA does not expect to spend all its RSC funding by November so it has requested permission to put the money in a fund to respond to emerging needs. Lisa asked what the process would be. It was agreed that it makes sense for CISMA to have emergency triage funds, to report to the RSC how such funds are being used, and to return the funds if CISMA is dissolved or if there are no emergencies. It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to allow CISMA to keep the funds and use them on invasive species work within the watershed or similar projects and to report to the RSC how the funds were used (Eggleston/Sciacca).

### **Route 20 Sewer Crossing**

Mary reported that the Town of Wayland has submitted a grant application to the state for funds for pipe systems for both water and sewer from Route 20 as well as a pipe for groundwater discharge at the Rivers Edge project. This would free up additional capacity for the wastewater treatment plant. Since Wayland has not received funding through this grant in previous competitions, it is merely an idea. Lisa said that Sudbury has not been approached about connecting the project to the Sudbury water system, a possible option to provide potable water at the new development.

### **Partnership Wild and Scenic Regional Meeting**

Another PWSR meeting over Veterans Day with the divisional director to discuss strategy for the budget and funding has been proposed.

### **Housekeeping**

Cindy said that it is time to revisit the five-year plan; she suggested tabling it until the new staff person is hired. She will send out a Doodle poll to determine the combined November-December budget cycle meeting. She will also get in touch with SVT about a representative.

**New Business**

Libby said that the next ARNWR program will be a talk on the American eel survey. Bill said he would like the RSC to sign on to the Mass Rivers Alliance letter about draft changes to the Clean Water Act noticed in the Federal Register. Comments are due October 17<sup>th</sup>. Cindy will contact Julia Blatt of the Alliance

The meeting was adjourned.