



Sudbury, Assabet and Concord

Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council Meeting

May 23, 2017

RSC Representatives present: Anne Slugg- Chair (Sudbury), Mary Antes (Wayland- Alt), Elissa Brown (Concord), Sarah Bursky (NPS), Ron Chick (Framingham -Alt), Cindy Delpapa (State), Christine Dugan (Lincoln), Alison Field Juma (OARS), Libby Herland (USFWS), Jim Meadors (Lincoln- Alt), Karen Pelto (State), Kate Tyrrell (SVT).

RSC Representatives not in attendance: Bill Fadden (Framingham), Ralph Hammond (Bedford), Marlies Henderson (Billerica), Jim Lagerbom (SVT- Alt), Joseph Piantedosi (Bedford- Alt), Tom Sciacca (Wayland).

Meeting called to order at 7:04 by Chair Slugg followed by representatives introducing themselves.

April minutes:

A Field Juma suggested the names of potential speakers for Riverfest not be listed and one typo was noted for correction. Motion made to accept the minutes as corrected, (Herland/Brown). MSV.

Updates:

Conservation Plan Update Next Steps – S Bursky requested town reps schedule a meeting with their local Select Board and other pertinent boards/commissions to present the recent work undertaken to update the SuAsCo W&S Conservation Plan. A powerpoint and a one page information sheet has been prepared and can be used, or not, and modified in the local outreach effort. The goal of the local meetings is to solicit input on the conservation plan revisions. S Bursky and A Slugg asked to be informed of meeting dates as soon as they are arranged as S Bursky will try to attend meetings if possible. Local input will help inform the additional plan revisions. S Bursky hopes the plan revision will be a shared undertaking.

July Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers meeting- The NPS has arranged for a day and a half meeting to bring together representatives from the Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers followed by the opportunity to participate in a day and a half workshop on how to perform a visual assessment. K Pelto and A Field Juma indicated an interest in attending on behalf of SuAsCo and C Delpapa will attend some of the meeting. Reps discussed the potential value of the visual training for the SuAsCo rivers.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Town reps schedule meeting(s) with their Select Board and other pertinent boards/commissions to present the Conservation Plan revisions

- Inform A Slugg and S Bursky of meeting dates
- S Bursky to ask L Lacey for more information on the upcoming visual assessment training and the final deadline for RSVPs to the Partnership River gathering in July.

Riverfest:

S Bursky announced the Riverfest event brochure will be ready later in the week and will be disseminated to reps and the event list is on the website. K Tyrrell kindly printed out some of the posters in color for reps to take for posting in their communities.

The River Stewards award committee has also been busy having met and made their selections. The League of Women voters will be sending out an official invitation to award winners. S Bursky will be sending the Riverfest Party invitee email list electronically and asked reps to update and augment the list as needed. The guest speaker for the party will be Sherry Corey- a naturalist who has done a great deal of work for USFWS and SVT in addition to writing a nature blog. L Herland will ask Ms. Corey if she would like to hang some of her photographs in the barn. S Bursky asked for volunteers to help pre and post party with set up/clean up. R Hammond, E Brown and C Dugan volunteered for help set up and A Slugg and A Field Juma will help post party. Alan Brown volunteered to take photographs. K Tyrrell will help A Slugg with food selection.

Riverfest promotion is important over the next few weeks. S Bursky has a general tally of the existing yard signs. More signs could be ordered as they are not expensive if people have 'approved' locations needing signs. The challenge will be delivering lawn signs and the event brochure. K Tyrrell found a large sign for Riverfest but the dates would need to be covered over. S Bursky needs more help with getting press releases distributed and promotional materials posted in high visibility locations. K Pelto volunteered (with E Berkowitz's help) to decorate the Concord Book Store window the Monday before Riverfest. It needs to come down the following Monday morning.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Reps are asked to take the color Riverfest posters for posting in their community.
- Reps are asked to update the Riverfest Part invitee email list.
- L Herland to ask Ms Corey if she would like to display her photographs at the party.
- Reps should also bring wine and beer to the party.

Updates:

M Antes wanted to tout Great Meadow refuge's Maple Tree event as it was lovely with exceptional speakers. L Herland did a great job to make the event interesting and fun. Despite cool weather there were 51 attendees.

At the Friends of Saxonville annual meeting the town's support for chemical application to control the water chestnuts was announced.

A Field Juma and K Tyrrell left the meeting prior to the partner funding discussion.

RFP review and funding decisions:

This funding supports some of the key priorities of the Conservation Plan. This year the RSC allocated \$65,000 for partner projects. S Bursky noted the considerable discussion the RSC has had in the past relative to how cuts have been made to funding requests especially with respect to geographic reach. S Bursky heard from partners that the funding should not guide the fundee's program. A Slugg prepared a handout highlighting the focus areas in the RFP to help guide the assessment of the proposals. Each request for funding was discussed. Motion made to fund OARS for their full request of \$25,263, CISMA for their full request of \$7,500, to allocate \$18,637 for Sudbury Valley Trustees and MAS RiverSchools to receive \$13,560 (cutting two field trips) for a total expenditure of \$65,000 (Brown/Dugan). Eight in favor and one opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.