



Representative Job Description

What Is the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord (SuAsCo) Wild and Scenic River?

In 1968, in an effort to protect waterways that were being degraded at an alarming rate, Congress passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to provide federal protections to rivers. In 1999, 29 miles of the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers were designated by Congress as Wild and Scenic with broad support from the communities surrounding the Rivers, in recognition of the “outstandingly remarkable values,” such as the extraordinary ecology, history and scenic beauty of the area.

The goal of the Wild and Scenic designation of a river is to protect the unique character of a river while managing for competing uses. SuAsCo Wild and Scenic River is managed as a partnership between the National Park Service and a Council of representatives from eight towns along the Wild and Scenic segments, as well as representatives from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and two local non-profits, OARS and Sudbury Valley Trustees. This group of representatives is known as the “River Stewardship Council” or “RSC.”

Participating on the River Stewardship Council – Playing A Critical Role

Being part of the RSC is a unique opportunity to contribute to the care and stewardship of the rivers. Representatives work together as committed volunteers on a range of issues. The purpose of the RSC (as described in the federal designation) is to promote the long-term protection of the rivers by: 1) coordinating implementation of the River Conservation Plan, 2) convening on a regular basis various parties responsible for the river management; and 3) providing a focus and forum for all river interests to discuss and make recommendations regarding issues of concern.

Town representatives play a critical role. National Park Service staff rely on volunteers to share information about projects and river related efforts in their town or organization; NPS staff also provide information back to representatives to bring back to their towns about available grant funds, special events and other unique opportunities. Town representatives are therefore the first to know about opportunities their town or organization may enjoy.

Council representatives are also encouraged to volunteer on a subcommittee, where more proactive work on special projects happens. Examples include water flow research, Riverfest event planning, outreach and education, and management planning.

Meetings are held monthly for two hours, and involve a combination of reviewing projects along the Rivers, developing projects to care for the Rivers, and making decisions about how best to use federal funds. Occasionally the RSC also comes together for fun events, such as the annual Riverfest weekend, and social occasions when we can enjoy the Rivers together, such as our annual summer boating outing.

The National Park Service staff work behind the scenes with the Council chair to make sure that meetings are efficient, and well organized; the unique nature of the conversation and projects that the RSC engage in vary according to the energy, interests and concerns of Council members.

More information about the responsibilities of the Council, the SuAsCo river system, and the Wild and Scenic River Program can be found at <http://www.sudbury-assabet-concord.org/the-organization/river-stewardship-council> and <http://www.nps.gov/wsr>.

Job Description of a Representative – Specific Duties

Representatives are responsible for carrying out the duties spelled out in the River Conservation Plan. These are:

- Attending RSC meetings; RSVP'ing when one cannot attend, and communicating with an alternate representative to attend if possible.
- Responding to email and other communications of/from the Council
- Participating actively in Council deliberations
- Informing the appointing body (Board of Selectmen or Conservation Commission) about the Council's work
- Relaying back to the RSC any information related to their town's/organization's activities that could impact the Wild and Scenic River and implementation of the River Conservation Plan
- Serving as liaison to their constituency, representing their interests and concerns

Working with An Alternate

When possible, town representatives are asked to work with an alternate, who can work with them in their town and also represent the town when the representative cannot. The alternate is encouraged to attend RSC meetings and participate in its deliberations whenever possible; however, the alternate may vote only when the representative is not present at a meeting or is unable to respond to other forms of communication.

How To Make Appointment Happen

Representatives are appointed by their respective governing body. In the case of town representatives, this may be the Board of Selectmen or Conservation Commission; representatives of organizations are appointed by their governing bodies. Representatives and alternates shall serve three-year terms, without limit as to the number of terms, unless specified by the member institution.

Join Us!

We hope you'll consider joining us in this effort to care for our local resources. Please don't hesitate to be in touch with questions. For more information, please contact:

Emma Lord
Natural Resource Specialist
Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic Rivers
National Park Service
15 State Street, Boston MA 02109
(617) 981-2116
emma_lord@nps.gov