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UMRLAC, PO Box 3019, Boscawen, NH 03303

UMRLAC Meeting Minutes for January 12, 2009  
Concord City Hall; Concord, NH

*Members present:* Michele Tremblay (Boscawen), Steve Landry (Boscawen), Gary Lynn (Bow), Krista Crowell (Bow), Nancy Roy (Canterbury), Harry Anderson (Northfield), Robert Wyatt (Concord), Bill Dawson (Northfield), Anne Emerson (Canterbury) and Rick Chormann (Concord)

*Members absent:* Tucker Noack (Franklin) and Alan Bartlett (Concord)

*Other present:* Jamie Fosburgh and Lelia Mellen of the National Park Service

The Chair of UMRLAC, Michele Tremblay, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. After members reviewed the consent portion of the agenda, UMRLAC voted to accept the consent agenda. **The February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held in Franklin.**

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report for December was reviewed and placed on file. Bow provided its annual support payment. Michele requested reimbursement for printing of the bug night flyer (\$243.56), bug night flyer postage (\$126) and for the microscope repairs (\$215). The cost to repair the two microscopes was steeply discounted, based on our non-profit status. The out of focus scope, broken glass plate and missing eyepiece cups were all fixed. UMRLAC voted to reimburse Michele for all three items for a total of \$584.56. UMRLAC also reimbursed Harry for \$20 for his conference registration fee.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Guest Presentation

Jamie Fosburgh and Lelia Mellen of the National Park Service gave a presentation on the Wild and Scenic Rivers Program. There was an effort in the past to designate portions of the Merrimack River as a Wild and Scenic River. This effort culminated with the preparation of a 1999 study and report to Congress. At the time, there was some local opposition to designation of the Merrimack as a Wild and Scenic River and no further efforts were made after completion of the study on the designation. The opposition was concerned that the designation as a Wild and Scenic River would result in significant restrictions and/or government taking of land.

Since the late 1990s, the Wild and Scenic River program has continued to develop. There is now a strong track record on what is known as "partnership rivers". This model for the program emphasizes working with private landowners in a cooperative manner. The Lamprey River in New Hampshire is an example of Wild and Scenic River that is a "partnership river". The advantage of Wild and Scenic River designation is that funding is available for technical support on river issues and there is also money available for conservation easements to help protect critical river habitats. Congresswoman Nikki Tsongas has expressed interest in having the

entire Merrimack River designated as a Wild and Scenic River. Massachusetts is particularly interested in setting up a recreational designation for the 30 mile stretch from Lawrence to Plum Island. The National Park Service speakers indicated that it would be more practical to designate segments that are less urbanized and less impacted by dams, rather than designating the entire river.

UMRLAC is interested in looking into Wild and Scenic River designation. It is a lengthy process and normally takes 5 years. Some of the necessary studies were previously completed and it would probably take less time as a result. UMRLAC will further explore the idea in future meetings. The key next step would be to build and demonstrate community and congressional support.

#### Upper Merrimack Monitoring Program (UMMP)

The introductory bug night session was well attended and the starting bell has been rung on another season of identifying alcohol preserved aquatic insects.

#### Permits

The DES wetlands program requested more information on the proposed Concord Crew boat dock. Wetlands wanted to know whether vegetative erosion controls could be installed instead of rip rap. Their letter also raised questions about setbacks from the abutter's property and requested a printout of the State's database on area rare and endangered species.

UMRLAC reviewed NH DOTs proposed culvert replacement at Exit 1, I-393. Apparently the culvert has failed and a sinkhole has formed. UMRLAC will write a letter requesting that the work be completed during a timeframe when there is no seasonal flow. This will help minimize the potential for erosion problems.

UMRLAC reviewed the Concord Steam Plant proposal to withdraw 400 gallons per minute from the Merrimack for makeup water. UMRLAC will prepare a comment letter requesting information on why their water needs will jump from 100 gpm at their existing plant to 400 gpm at their new plant. UMRLAC will also note that even though angle drilling will be used to minimize river disturbance, there will be at least temporary disturbance to the river bottom.

#### Miscellaneous

1) There will be a hearing on January 13<sup>th</sup> on proposed clarifications/technical corrections to the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act. There is also funding bill that would change RSA 483 to allow collection of a fee on wetland and alteration of terrain permit applications. This fee would replace funds that are currently coming out of the General Fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Submitted by Gary Lynn