

# Upper Merrimack River

## Local Advisory Committee



BOSCAWEN  
BOW  
CANTERBURY  
CONCORD  
FRANKLIN  
NORTHFIELD

UMRLAC, PO Box 3019, Boscawen, NH 03303

### UMRLAC Meeting Minutes for July 13, 2009 Canterbury Library; Canterbury, NH

*Members present:* Michele Tremblay (Boscawen), Steve Landry (Boscawen), Gary Lynn (Bow), Krista Crowell (Bow), Harry Anderson (Northfield), Nancy Roy (Canterbury), Bill Dawson (Northfield), Anne Emerson (Canterbury) and Tucker Noack (Franklin)

*Members absent:* Robert Wyatt (Concord), Rick Chormann (Concord), Brian Sullivan (Franklin) and Alan Bartlett (Concord)

*Other present:* None

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 August 10 meeting will be held in Concord.**

#### Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer report for June was reviewed, accepted and placed on file. Franklin reduced their support payment by 25%. Many of the other Franklin non-profit groups did not fare as well and some groups were defunded during this difficult economic climate. UMRLAC purchased and paid for Jim Craddock (Packawallop LLC) \$200 web utility tool.

#### Wild and Scenic River Designation

Michele reminded everyone to identify the appropriate Town contact for an introductory letter and meeting on Wild and Scenic River designation for the Upper Merrimack River. Contact information should be sent by email to Michele by the end of the month. Tucker will contact Jamie Fossburgh of Fish and Wildlife about getting about a half dozen packages of information that can be mailed prior to an UMRLAC presentation to City/Town organizations. Copies of a newsletter about the program were distributed during the meeting.

#### Upper Merrimack Monitoring Program (UMMP)

Two bacteria sampling events have been completed. Anne Emerson is transporting the samples from DES to the Franklin Wastewater Treatment Facility for analysis again this year, many thanks. The bacteria results were very good and all sites were successfully sampled. Our supply of whirl packs for collecting bacteria samples is close to running out (the current supply lasted for 13 years – not bad). UMRLAC voted to spend up to \$500 on the purchase of additional whirl packs and replacement thermometers (UMMP will be going digital to improve the ability to read the thermometers on sunny days).



Rock basket deployment has been delayed twice this year. The river flow is 3 to 7 times higher than the same time last year, depending on the river reach. Steve hopes to deploy the rock baskets on August 12, if the flows drop. UMLAC discussed changing the biomonitoring program so that it includes sampling of the tributaries. Expanding the sampling program to the tributaries could detect additional water quality impacts and would add some excitement to bug nights as volunteers identify new families of organisms that are present in the tributaries, but not the Merrimack. After fully vetting the change, UMLAC decided to add Stirrup Iron Brook (Boscawen), Turkey River (Bow and Concord), Punch Brook (Franklin) and Bryant Brook (Canterbury). Potential addition of Sucker Brook, Tannery Brook and Hayward Brook will be considered next year. If the additional samples cannot be fully identified during bug nights, the samples will be sent to a lab for analysis. The existing monitoring sites will continue to be monitored. Changes to the core monitoring network will be deferred until after our program is reviewed by EcoAnalysts during our 10+ year biomonitoring anniversary report.

#### Permits

No new permit activity during this timeframe.

#### Miscellaneous

- 1) Krista will review the website for July.
- 2) DES sent Gary Lynn a letter formally reappointing him to UMLAC for another term.
- 3) It is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the River Management Protection Act and 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Volunteer River Assessment program. Steve Couture will be sending five commemorative t-shirts to each of the LACs.
- 4) The New Hampshire Water and Watershed Conferences will be November 20 to 21<sup>st</sup>.
- 5) Gary Lynn will write up a proposal for UMLAC sponsoring a canoe race on the Merrimack for our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Tucker will look into Pemi River Adventures and Krista will look into renting a pontoon boat for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary extravaganza.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Submitted by Gary Lynn