

## **Sudbury Ponds & Waterways Committee Meeting Minutes** **July 7, 2009, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m., Flynn Building**

**Attendees: Susan Crane; chair, Alan Bascom, Mike Dufault; Steve (Gabe) Gabeler; Robert Hershfield; Ted Klein; Mary Addonizio**

### **Meeting Minutes**

The meeting minutes were approved for June 18, 2009. Tippling Road should be changed to Tippling Rock.

### **Topo Maps**

Alan Bascom, Dave Blohm, Susan Crane, Paul Greenspan, and Frank Lyons delivered the topo maps and 8.5 x 11 inch interpretive signs to the Town Hall, Flynn Building, DPW Building, Goodnow Library, and the following schools: Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, Curtis, Loring, and Noyes. The PWC contacted principals at the Haynes and Nixon schools for delivery of the maps and legends at a later date.

Ted Klein suggested that the PWC take a photo of members with the topo map and write an article about the map to submit to the Town Crier.

Rob Hershfield will ask Nancy Hershfield if she can compose the article using information from the presentation to the Board of Selectmen, the interpretive signs, the grant application and the follow up report to the Sudbury Foundation. It may also be possible to call some people such as Ms. Paula Feynman, 6th grade math and science teacher at Curtis, and Ms. Karen McCarthy, the Sudbury Public Schools K-8 science curriculum coordinator, to get some quotes about how the maps will be used.

### **Adopt A Pond Program**

Rob stated that he would like to learn more about the Open Space Plan Committee's Stewardship Model Plan, which could be used as a model for the Adopt a Pond Program. He will contact Jody Kablack, Director of Planning and Community Development, who chairs the Open Space Plan Committee to obtain information.

### **Sudbury Water District Rates**

Susan Crane mentioned that she was interested in learning more about how the most recent (2009) Sudbury water rates were determined, which lowered the commercial rate for the highest volume users. She expressed the concern that this could be a disincentive for water conservation. She plans to call Mr. Al Renzi, Sudbury Water District Superintendent, to find out more about how the water rates were calculated and to learn about water use by the highest volume customers.

**Sudbury River Water Quality Testing/PWC Request of the Board of Selectmen (BOS)**

Deirdre Menoyo and Thomas B. Arnold, members of the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild & Scenic River Stewardship Council (“RSC”), came to the July meeting at 8:30 to ask for PWC support of the following vote:

*To recommend that the Sudbury Board of Selectmen write to the MassDEP Commissioner requesting that MassDEP submit a proposal to EPA for a grant under section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (stimulus package) for water quality management planning on the Sudbury River. The PWC requests that the Board of Selectmen seek to encourage the support and participation of the other communities along the Wild & Scenic segment of the Sudbury River; i.e., the Towns of Framingham, Wayland, Concord and Lincoln.*

All PWC members in attendance, but one voted in favor of the request. Susan Crane, who is also a member of the RSC, abstained.

Ms. Menoyo and Mr. Arnold explained that since the early 1980s, the Sudbury River has been identified as eutrophic due to excessive nutrients in the river. Before this condition can be ameliorated, the MADEP requires sufficient water quality samples be taken to determine whether the Sudbury River is “impaired” pursuant to s. 303(d) of the Massachusetts Clean Waters Act. Once a determination is made, the MADEP may then propose to EPA that a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study be started. A TMDL study provides data to identify the total nutrient load that the Sudbury River can assimilate without degrading its designated uses as a fishable, swimmable water body, identifies sources of nutrients; allocates loads to each source, and develops an implementation plan to achieve the reduced loads.

This summer (2009), the RSC issued an RFP for a water quality monitoring program to collect water quality data. The RSC has signed a contract with the Organization for the Assabet River to collect this data. Due to limited resources, the RSC could only offer a contract for \$15,000, which is insufficient for enough data to be collected for the MADEP to make a determination whether the Sudbury River is “impaired.”

Another potential source of funding for this water quality sampling program is the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The ARRA provides \$4 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). Section 604(b) of the federal Clean Water Act provides for the reservation of 1% of each state’s CWSRF allotment “to carry out planning.” The MA allotment for these projects is \$1,343,900. Funds will remain available for obligation until September 30, 2010. All funds must be under contract or construction by February 17, 2010.

The ARRA focuses 20% of the CWSRF funds on three types of projects. Of interest to the PWC are the “green infrastructure” projects, which are defined to include “a state or regional planning organization which develops a green infrastructure for a watershed

*which identifies healthy sub-watersheds of high ecological integrity worthy of conservation and protection as well as sub-watersheds with impaired waters in need of restoration; threats to the ecological integrity of those watersheds; and the protection, mitigation, and restoration projects...needed to protect water quality.”*

EPA encourages States to use 604(b) funds to conduct activities as part of a planning effort.

Susan will send an email to the Selectmen and Town Manager about the vote, requesting the Town’s support on this project.

Some questions raised by PWC included:

- Will other contiguous towns be interested?
- What are potential value propositions for other towns?
- Could restrictions be put on the river, the Town, or residents and businesses in Sudbury if the river is found to have high nutrient levels?
- What could be some possible restrictions?
- By making the request are we making any commitment to supply volunteers to take samples?

Information about TMDLs can be found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/intro.html>

### **Master Plan**

PWC members who were assigned to write the last watershed descriptions will submit them by July 15 to Gabe (Steve) Gabeler. The subcommittee will offline meet to finalize the Master Plan for submission to the Board of selectmen. Mary Addonizio will edit the submissions. Gabe, Alan Bascom, Rob, and Dave, if he would like to be, are the subcommittee members.

### **Next Meeting Dates**

- Monday 09/14/09
- Tuesday 10/20/09
- Monday 11/09/09

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm