



**Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed  
Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Committee  
Minutes**

***December 14, 2017***

***7 pm to 9 pm***

***WPWA Campus, 203 Arcadia Road, Hope Valley, RI 02832***

In attendance: Christopher Grube, Madeline Jeffery, Richard Seager, Dave Prescott, Virginia Wootten, Harrison Gatch, Nils Wiberg, James Leigh, Fred Wagner, Maureen Kennelly, Dick Diamond, Peter Paton, Roy Heaton, Denise Poyer

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm

Presentation

1. No presentation

Approval of Minutes of November 14, 2017 meeting

Financial Report

1. Budget report
  - a. As of December 12, 2017 we have expended \$71,097 of the \$116,000 allotted funds with the most recent requests for reimbursement of \$4048 made on December 5, 2017 and \$1,248 made on December 12, 2017.
  - b. On December 12 2017, Sean Henry approved a total of 74 hours for Denise for the period from November 3 to December 30, 2017 for a total of \$2,590.
  - c. To date for the project, Denise has worked a total of 1433 hours, totaling \$50,155.00
2. Future funding
  - a. Jamie reported at the Gathering of the Three River Studies that there is \$20,000 appropriated for each study river for the 2017 to 2018. Depending on the budget approved for the NPS there may be an additional \$40,000. If all of these funds are not expended before the bill is submitted in late 2018 they could be used for activities to create the Stewardship Committee.

Old Business

1. Outreach activities to towns
  - a. Updates from town representatives on outreach efforts
    - i. Stonington – appointment with Rob Simmons on 12/19 – will go over matrix, and then will contact commission
    - ii. North Stonington – going to inland wetlands 12/13, conservation commission, planning and zoning on 1/11, took about 45 min to do whole

presentation, used map, want to see stewardship plan before they make the recommendation

- iii. Charlestown – town manger sent all the departments information. Will contact all the commissions to set up meetings in Jan.
- iv. Westerly – Meet with municipal land trust, town planner to get matrix done. Schedule for planning board and rec board in Jan.
- v. West Greenwich – conservation commission and land trust passed resolution; meet with town planner, will get on planning commission in Jan.
- vi. Richmond – meeting with conservation commission 1/20. Denise will meet with land trust in Jan. Tom has meeting with town planner.
- vii. Hopkinton – meet with conservation commission 11/14; meet with land trust and they will send support letter.
- viii. Exeter – meet town council member about best strategy
- ix. States – Denise is setting up a meeting with Sue Sosnowski to submit legislation to RI senate. She will set up meetings with CT legislators next month.

## 2. Stewardship Plan

### a. Update of Stewardship Plan

i. Denise has asked the following people to provide articles:

1. Water Quality – Art Gold
2. Mussels – Chris Rathiel
3. Forestry Management – Cathy Sparks
4. Dragonflies – Ginger Brown
5. Migratory birds – Peter Paton
6. Watershed Fisheries – Alan Libby
7. Beaver – Charlie Brown
8. Great Swamp –
9. Narragansett Historical Use of the Watershed – Loren Spears
10. Ship Building –
11. Westerly Granite/Ship Building in the Pawcatuck –
12. Shunock and Green Fall Mill Villages – Dick Seager or his suggestion
13. Hillsdale Historic District – Jeff Emidy
14. Borderland Project/ Queen River – TNC (John Torgan)
15. Flyfishing the Wood – Dick Diamond
16. Paddling – Jim Leigh

ii. Denise and Jim Leigh are looking into having a professional editor edit the Stewardship Plan.

**b. ORV Protection Matrix is continuing to be updated. Please get town information to Denise by Jan. 19, 2018.**

i. Denise is working with TNC to identify gaps in protection

3. NPS Report has been reviewed internally and was sent back with suggested edits. Denise and Sarah are working on those edits.

a. The report will not be completed until after the towns have voted to support designation. They need to have the resolutions from the towns included in the report.

b. However, we can ask for that a bill be submitted even before the NPS report is completed.

1. NPS Meeting with Three Study Rivers
  - a. Denise discussed the meeting and gave out the meeting notes. See attached.
  - b. All three studies are generally on similar timelines.
  - c. Naushua River and WP will likely be submitting bills by the fall. York river may not submit until Dec.
2. Timeline was updated by Denise. We are on track. See attached.

### Subcommittee Reports

1. Outreach Subcommittee
  - a. Poster – general impressions
    - i. All preferred the Susan Shaw painting
    - ii. Add website and/or qrc
    - iii. Suggestions for text:
      1. Take out THE and just use RIVERS
      2. RIVERS, WHERE WE WORK AND PLAY
      3. Take off any text and enlarge logo
      4. Support Our Ocean by supporting Our Rivers ~ “Help Designate the WPW as Wild and Scenic ~“To Learn more...Visit our website (website)"Optional:-have the fact sheet in a small container on the bottom
  - b. We will be printing more fact sheets

### Schedule Next Meeting

1. January 2018 – will be last two weeks of January
2. No presentation

### Adjourn at 8:38 pm

### To do:

Denise

- Send maps of towns and rivers to committee members
- Send text of presentation to committee members
- Send aquifer map