



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

***April 17, 2018***

***7 pm to 9 pm***

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

In attendance: Christopher Grube, Sean Henry, Madeline Jeffery, Richard Seager, Dave Prescott, James Leigh, Fred Wagner, Peter Paton, Denise Poyer, Sarah Bursky, Joe MacAndrew, Tom McCormick, Virginia Wootten, Roy Heaton, Harrison Gatch

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Approval of Minutes of March 6, 2018 meeting: Unanimously approved

Financial Report

1. Budget report
  - a. As of March 21, 2018 we have expended \$87,338 of the \$116,000 allotted funds with the most recent requests for reimbursement of \$2290 made on March 21, 2018.
  - b. We will be submitting for reimbursement this week for \$6094, leaving \$22,568 in the budget
  - c. On April 13, 2018, Sean Henry approved a total of 89 hours for Denise for the period from to March 9 to April 15, 2018 for a total of \$3115.
  - d. To date for the project, Denise has worked a total of 1,736 hours, totaling \$60,760.
  - e. Denise recommended we move \$5,000 from line item 1.a. Project Coordinator Outreach to new line item 3.d. Stewardship Plan. This will allow us to compensate the plan designer and editor. Motion made
2. New budget for 2018
  - a. Denise has been working with Jamie to request an additional \$50,000. Jamie believes this funding will be approved and available in June 2018.
  - b. Denise is confident there is enough current funding to be able to carry the project until then.

Old Business

1. Stewardship Plan
  - a. Chris Mason of Mason and Associates gave a presentation on his report regarding town protections. Overall there exists good protection of the rivers through the town comprehensive plans and plans of development; planning and zoning regulations and overlays; and special protections.

- i. The committee asked if there are there any gaps in protection?
    1. Sterling has only one zone that allows both residential and other. But most of the land is protected along the rivers and the zoning is low density two acre zoning so probably not a problem.
  - ii. The committee agreed that the report was comprehensive and well done, but too large to fit into the Stewardship Plan as is. Denise will work with Chris to identify which sections of his report will go into the plan and the entire report will go into the appendix.
  - b. Stewardship Council structure – with minor changes the committee voted to accept the chapter on the Stewardship Council Structure.
  - c. Stewardship Plan content – the committee agreed that the plan is acceptable and with revisions to the chapter regarding town and state protections it can go out to the town committees.
  - d. Timeline for delivery to towns – revisions will be made in the next two weeks. Digital copies will be sent to all town planners and committee chairs by May 1 with requests for comments by May 30. At that time any changes will be made and a final version will be presented to the committee to vote to accept. The final version will then be sent out to the town councils and board of selectmen for a vote.
2. Outreach activities to towns – once the draft stewardship plan is sent to the town committees the Study Committee members will be in touch with them to discuss any items.
  3. Media Event scheduled for Monday, May 7 at 11 am – Denise passed out notes (attached) for the event. Committee members are encouraged to attend. Denise will let them know if she needs help with any of the activities.
  4. Promotional Activities – tabled to next meeting.

#### New Business

1. References and resources – anything that could not go into the Stewardship Plan will be put on the website
2. River names – the committee voted to use the following names in the Stewardship Plan:
  - a. Queen-Usquepaugh River
  - b. Green Fall-Ashaway River

#### Outreach Committee Report

1. Posters have been printed and were passed out to members. They may post them in places such as libraries and town halls. They may also give them out to town committees.

#### Schedule Next Meeting

1. Denise will send out a Needtomeet for the week of May 21 to 25.

#### Adjourn at 9:10 pm

# Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Rivers Study

## Media Kick Off Event

1. Date: Monday, May 7, 2018. Time has already been set to 11 am to give cameras time to arrive. Place is the Wood River Access in Arcadia Management, off Rt. 165 in Exeter, RI.
2. Purpose of Event: To encourage support of the Wild and Scenic designation by the twelve towns in the watershed and the general public.
3. Media release sent out Monday, April 30 by Chip to his media list.
  - a. Media release will be embargoed until 12:01 a.m. day-of.
  - b. Alex Kuffner at ProJo gets media release midweek prior, so he can write it up for Monday morning paper. TVs look to that for coverage that day, and Mondays are notoriously slow.
  - c. Others to get it in advance: by Wednesday of that week
    - i. Avory Brookins at RIPR
    - ii. Steve Klamkin at WPRO
    - iii. Cynthia Drummon at Westerly Sun
    - iv. Matt Wunsch South County Independent & Narragansett Times
    - v. New London Day
4. Denise will be available the whole week before the event for interviews, likely with Alex Kuffner, Avory Brookins, and Steve Klamkin
5. We will need to identify best photo ops of study site well in advance.
  - a. Denise and Ayla will come up with a list of easily accessible river sites
  - b. Ayla's work probably won't be used due to TV protocol issues. However, we can send photos with release for whoever wants to use them.
  - c. Ayla will put together some clips of the rivers and make them available in case tv stations want to use them.
6. Denise will send talking points to Chip for the media release by May 1.
  - a. Must answer the question – What does this mean to RI/CT?
  - b. Get one line quotes from delegates (Denise will feed them talking points so they are not all quoting the same thing).
7. Have Op Ed piece written by John Torgan from TNC.
  - a. ASRI, TNC, STB, and WPWA will all sign.
  - b. Send to local papers and ProJo with media release
  - c. Send to Ed Achorn May 7
8. Day of event
  - a. Who's speaking:
    - i. Denise will MC
    - ii. Definitely Reed, Whitehouse, Langevin, and Cicilline.
    - iii. Representative from Courtney's office, Murphy and Blumenthal can't make it.
    - iv. Cathy Sparks from RIDEM
  - b. Invite (besides speakers above)
    - i. Study Committee
    - ii. WPWA Board
    - iii. Town Boards
    - iv. One classroom of local students
    - v. Fishermen
    - vi. Kayakers