



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

March 2, 2017

7 pm to 9 pm

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

In attendance: Sean Henry, Madeline Jeffery, Richard Seager, Dennis Migneault, James Leigh, Nils Wiberg, Cathy Sparks, Jamie Fosburgh, Dave Prescott, Jon Ericson, Roger Gibson, Christopher Grube, Jay Aaron, Cathy Sparks, Rachel Calabro, Joe MacAndrew, Denise Poyer

Not yet appointed: Peter Paton, Tom McCormick

Approval of Minutes of January 26, 2017 meeting
Approved unanimously with corrections.

Presentation

1. None

Financial Report

1. Denise's report
 - a. As of Feb. 21, 2017 we have expended \$39,754.71 with the most recent request for reimbursement of \$4,658.84 made on Feb. 21, 2017.
 - b. On Feb. 15, 2017, Sean Henry approved a total of 87 hours for Denise for the periods ending Jan. 13 and Feb. 9, 2017 for a total of \$3,045.00
 - c. To date for the fiscal year, Denise has worked a total of 788 hours, totaling \$28,070.00
2. Denise presented proposed changes to the current budget that would move more funds to cover her hours.
 - a. Motion made to approve proposed changes to the budget. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Denise presented a proposed budget for 2017/2018 based on a total of \$60,000 if available from NPS.
 - a. Motion made to approve 2017/2018 proposed budget. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. New committee members
 - a. Present
 - i. Tom McCormick from Richmond, RI – will submit application to the Town Council
 - b. Not present

- i. E. Richard Diamond, Jr. from North Kingstown, RI awaiting Town Council approval
 - ii. Hank Webster from West Greenwich, RI – will submit application to the Town Council
 - iii. Harrison Gatch from Westerly - will submit application to the Town Council
- 2. Land and Water Summit
 - a. Two committee members, Dennis Migneault and Dick Seager, will attend
- 3. ORV's for NPS report
 - a. Denise presented a summary of ORVs based on the work of the subcommittees. It was the consensus of the committee to use a watershed approach which identified and described four ORV groupings that applied to the whole watershed
 - i. Geology/Hydrology
 - ii. Exceptional Ecosystem
 - iii. Cultural
 - iv. Scenic/Recreation
 - b. In addition each of the individual rivers will share one or more of the ORVs. The subcommittees are asked to expand on these ORVs with specific examples of the rivers' values.
 - c. How to feature the large forested areas as a resource was discussed. Denise added text to the Exceptional Ecosystem description to emphasize this feature.

New Business

- 1. How to handle tributaries in the report
 - a. Each subcommittee will make note of important tributaries and describe how they contribute to the ORVs of the rivers.
 - b. If a subcommittee feels a tributary is so important that it should be part of the designation they will collect evidence for this and bring it to the full committee for discussion.
- 2. Outreach strategies to towns
 - a. The Outreach Committee will develop a slide show presentation, text, fact sheets, and other materials.
 - b. Committee members will be able to customize the presentation to their towns.
 - c. Committee members will start giving presentations to interested groups and committees in their towns. These could include
 - i. Planning committees
 - ii. Conservation Committees
 - iii. Land Trusts
 - iv. Inland Wetland Commissions
 - v. Community clubs and organizations (possibly invite them and the public to special meetings at a local library)
 - d. Denise will create a database of groups to invite to presentations. Committee members are asked to send information about their local groups.

Subcommittee Reports

- 1. Outreach Subcommittee
 - a. The art for the rack card was reviewed and needed slight modification. This has been done and this art is ready for printing.
 - b. The design phase of the Website is completed and the functioning text is now being developed.
 - c. We will develop a Fact / Value document that will address questions and general concerns regarding the nature of the Wild and Scenic Rivers initiative and

specifically the Wood – Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Rivers designation. This printable single page document will be designed to be both inkjet printer compatible using low print density to minimize cartridge expense.

- d. We will design large scale posters promoting the Wood - Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic rivers study.
 - e. The first step in this process will be to isolate both the image and text objectives that this design effort should focus on.
 - f. We will begin to evolve some guidelines to assist the Subcommittees (if needed) with methods and content of the presentations to municipal authorities in the fall. It is our understanding that less formal meetings with various Town / City commissions will occur before these presentation.
2. Beaver/Chipuxet/Queen Rivers
 - a. Assigned classifications for river segments and began describing ORVs
 - b. Determined that the Chipuxet River segment should start just south of Taylor's Landing on Rt. 138 and continue to Worden Pond, not at Hundred Acre Pond as requested in the Study bill.
 - c. The Chipuxet should be considered as part of the Great Swamp hydrologic system.
 3. Wood River
 - a. Assigned classifications for river segments and began describing ORVs
 4. Pawcatuck River
 - a. The subcommittee divided into four subcommittees based on ORVs
 - b. They have done quite a bit of research and have started writing ORVs
 5. Shunock/Green Falls River
 - a. Assigned classifications for river segments and began describing ORVs

Schedule Next Meeting

1. Denise will send out a NeedToMeet poll to schedule a meeting in early April
2. Denise will invite Alan Libby from RIDEM to talk about fish in the watershed

Adjourn at 8:40 pm

Action Items

Denise

- Post meeting notes and subcommittee meeting notices for the full committee
- Register two for the Land and Water Summit
- Contact Alan Libby about presentation at next meeting
- Email Resource Document to full committee
- Start a database of town and community groups for presentations
- Work with Jamie to write a new Cooperative Agreement with NPS based on the approved budget for 2017/2018

Committee members

- Send Denise any new resources to be included in the list. Please be descriptive as to what the resource is.
- Send Denise names and contact information for town and community groups to invite to presentations.