



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

January 30, 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, Dennis Mignault, Jon Ericson, Dave Prescott, James Leigh, Fred Wagner, Dick Diamond, Peter Paton, Denise Poyer, Sarah Bursky, Jamie Fosburgh, Joe MacAndrew

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm

Approval of Minutes of December 14, 2017 meeting: Unanimously approved

Financial Report

1. Budget report
 - a. As of January 23, 2018 we have expended \$75,291 of the \$116,000 allotted funds with the most recent requests for reimbursement of \$1,914 made on January 23, 2018.
 - b. On January 23, 2018, Sean Henry approved a total of 45 hours for Denise for the period from December 29, 2017 to January 11, 2018 for a total of \$1,575.
 - c. To date for the project, Denise has worked a total of 1,537 hours, totaling \$53,795.00
2. Moving funds
 - a. Denise recommended we move \$1000 from Line 1.b. Outreach publications and videos to 2.c Expert Consultant; and move \$500 from 3.b. Supplies and put \$200 into 3.c. Workshops and \$300 into 2.c. Expert Consultant. The Study Committee voted to accept the recommendation.

Old Business

1. Outreach activities to towns
 - a. Updates from town representatives on outreach efforts
 - i. Stonington – Fred has a meeting tomorrow with Rob Simmons and a meeting with town committees on Feb. 1.
 - ii. North Stonington – meet with Planning and Zoning. Conservation commission not able to attend. Want to see Stewardship Plan.
 - iii. Westerly – Planning, Zoning, Recreation board are pretty busy. Best to wait until we have a draft of the Stewardship Plan. Have engaged land trusts.

- iv. West Greenwich – planning board and land trust will send a letter of support.
 - v. South Kingstown – meeting with land trust this week. Planning department will coordinate response to town council.
 - vi. Richmond – presenting to conservation commission on Feb. 14
 - b. Problems or concerns from towns
 - i. W&S Language – issue with section 6 of the act concerning land acquisition by the federal government had some language that a North Stonington Inland Wetland Commission member found alarming. Denise and Jamie addressed the issue and their response was included in the minutes of the commission meeting.
 - ii. Stonington hurricane barrier – a section of the Stonington Coastal Resiliency Plan mentions installing a hurricane barrier at a narrow point in the Pawcatuck Estuary below Westerly Yatch Club. This could be problematic if that section of the river is designated Wild and Scenic. Denise and Fred will be meeting with Rob Simmons tomorrow and discuss how to work with the town around this issue.
 - c. New Power Point presentation – will be sent to committee members
 - d. Future presentations
 - i. Narragansett Chapter of AMC on Feb. 13
 - ii. Narragansett Chapter of Trout Unlimited on April 25
 - e. State and federal Outreach
 - i. Meet with Senator Reed and Whitehouse and Congressman Langevin’s staff.
 - 1. They agreed to introduce legislation to congress in late Sept or early Oct 2018. Denise will work with them and NPS on the language of the bill.
 - 2. Agreed to attend a media event to roll out support from towns on May 7, 2018 at 11 am at the Wood River Access in Arcadia.
 - a. Denise will start to invite other delegates.
 - b. Janet Coit has already agreed and suggests we invite the Governor.
 - ii. RI State Senate: meet with Sue Sosnowski to submit legislation to RI senate. Sue wanted to make sure support of agriculture in the watershed was noted in the stewardship plan.
 - iii. RI State House: setting up a meeting with Brian Kennedy.
 - iv. CT State Senate and House: will set up meetings
 - v. Meeting with RIDEM on March 16
2. Stewardship Plan
- a. Update of Stewardship Plan
 - i. A rough outline and draft of the plan was sent out to the committee. Denise will continue to send out chapters as they are written or updated.
 - ii. Denise has contacted several editing services. There are three that have submitted proposals, ranging from \$800 to \$2,000.
 - b. ORV Protection Matrix
 - i. Expert consultant
 - 1. Denise would like to engage Mason and Associates to collate and review municipal ordinances and plans and prepare a draft report summary by town. They would build on the ORV Protection Matrix. The cost is estimated at \$3,642, including a presentation to the Study Committee.

2. The Study Committee unanimously voted to approve engaging Mason and Associates and capping that expenditure at \$4,000.
 - ii. Denise is working with TNC to identify gaps in protection. She also met with Lorraine Joubert who had suggestions to add.
- c. List of Maps – this is still a work in progress. Please send Denise any suggestions
- d. Outstanding questions to be answered?
- e. Stewardship Plan subcommittee – Denise, Sean and Jim are working on the Stewardship Plan. Any meeting dates they have will be shared with the committee so whoever wants to can come.

New Business

1. Land and Water Summit
 - a. Denise will be doing a presentation
 - b. There is funding for up to 3 committee members to go. Please let Denise know if you are interested.
2. Media Kick-off Event with Congressional Delegates on Monday, May 7, 2018 at 11 am at the Wood River Access (or Deer Check Station) off Rt. 165 in the Arcadia Management Area in Exeter. Denise is working out the details with Ayla Fox and Chip Young. She will be inviting several dignitaries, include Senators, Representatives, and Governors. All of the Study Committee is invited as well.
3. Other promotional activities
 - a. Photo contest – Denise is unable to organize this until after the Stewardship Plan is completed. She will work with the Outreach Committee to see if someone else can take this over.
 - b. Paddles – Denise will try to organize these for June or July, again after the Stewardship Plan is completed.

Outreach Committee Report

1. Outreach Subcommittee
 - a. Poster has a final version. We are working out printing costs and size. One plan is to give posters as gifts to officials. We would have framed prints made for all the congressional delegates.
 - b. We will be printing 1000 more fact sheets

Schedule Next Meeting

1. February 2018

Adjourn at 8:55 pm

To do:

Denise

- Develop list of maps
- Send committee copy of W&S Act and response to NS Inland Wetlands.
- Review Q&A to make sure it explains no federal ownership of land or condemnation.
- Bring plan to economic development commission
- Send Sean minutes that include committee structure
- Sign up Sean for Land and Water Summit
- Contact Chris Mason about setting up a meeting
- Send Jim the information about the photo contest and paddles