



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

*January 28, 2016*

*7 pm to 9 pm*

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

In attendance: James Cole, Sean Henry, Maureen Kennelly, Meg Kerr, Madeline Jeffery, Richard Seager, Dennis Migneault, Rober Gibson, Robert McLevy, James Leigh, Fred Wagner, Oren Cooke, Tracey Hanson, Christopher Grube, Louis Sposato, Jay Aron, Eric Thomas, Dave Prescott, Rachel Calabro, Denise Poyer

Absent: Kevin Fetzer, Denise Stetson, Carol Ann Baker, John Obrien, Alan Desbonnet

**Organizational Meeting**

1. Introductions
2. Anticipated Timeline: a draft was distributed to the committee and will be posted on the WPWA website.
3. Committee Structure: By consensus the committee decided:
  - a. To have three officials. The committee unanimously elected:
    - i. Louis Sposato, Chairperson.
    - ii. Jim Cole, Vice Chairperson
    - iii. Denise Poyer, Secretary/Treasure
  - b. Terms of office will be decided as necessary. L. Sposato will only be able to serve until Nov 1, 2016. The committee will revisit election of officers at that time.
  - c. Agenda and Minutes will follow standard formats.
  - d. To make sure that information about the committee and its function are accurate all outside inquiries will be referred to the Project Manager, D. Poyer.
  - e. All meetings will be open to the public. Meeting agenda and minutes do not need to be posted on the Secretary of State website. Instead D. Poyer will post on the WPWA website and send notices to the local press.
  - f. Subcommittees: Decisions about subcommittee structure were tabled to the next meeting. To help inform the committee about possible options, E. Thomas will send synapses of two recent Wild and Scenic study committees in CT and R. Calabro will send one concerning the Taunton.
    - i. Typically subcommittees may include at least:
      1. Outreach and education committee

2. Mapping subcommittee
    - ii. The committee will be able to form future subcommittees as needed.
4. Procedural rules
  - a. By consensus it was decided to use Robert's Rules of Order.
  - b. Membership and voting: The committee is structured to allow two representatives appointed by each of the fourteen towns in the watershed. Alternates are acceptable. Five towns have only one appointed member and two towns currently have none. In addition, there are two representatives from Save the Bay, one from The Nature Conservancy, one each from RIDEM and CT DEEP, and two from WPWA, including the Project Manager.
    - i. **Motion:** Allow each member on the committee one vote, with the exception of only two voting members per town. *Motion passed unanimously.*
    - ii. **Motion:** In order to have a quorum, two thirds of the voting members must be present. *Motion failed.*
    - iii. **Motion:** In order to have a quorum, representatives from at least seven towns must be present. *Motion passed unanimously.*
    - iv. Whenever possible the committee will work to come to consensus.
    - v. State entities may have a full vote; may have another official from that entity vote; or abstain.
    - vi. Members need to resign from the committee and ask their town to appoint another committee member to replace them.
5. Approval of budget:
  - a. A \$60,000 budget, as developed by the budget subcommittee was presented and discussed. In addition, it was explained that NPS has only authorized \$40,000 for the FY 2016 Cooperative Agreement between NPS and WPWA. However, it is likely that we will be able to request more from NPS later in the FY.
    - i. **Motion:** Pass \$40,000 budget. *Motion failed.*
    - ii. **Motion:** Pass \$60,000 budget as presented. *Motion passed by majority vote.*
    - iii. **Motion:** To obligate no more than \$40,000 be spent from the budget until we received more funding from the NPS. *Motion passed unanimously.*
6. Additional members to the committee:
  - a. Several non-governmental organizations and interested stakeholders have expressed interest in being on the committee. By consensus it was decided to limit the committee to the current makeup, with the understanding that it may eventually include two representatives from all 14 towns.
  - b. Interested stakeholders could be invited to sit on subcommittees instead. They would not be able to vote, but their expertise and interested would contribute greatly to the recommendations and decisions of the committee.
  - c. D. Poyer will:
    - i. Draft a letter for approval by the committee which could be sent to invite others onto subcommittees.

- ii. Develop a list of organizations and individuals who may be interested in helping on subcommittees. Committee members are invited to send suggestions for this list.
- 7. New business to be discussed at the next meeting:
  - a. Scope of the rivers to be studied
  - b. Potential new river segments to add to the list
  - c. Current committee individual's expertise and interest
  - d. Subcommittee structure
  - e. Website content and design
    - i. T. Hanson has volunteered to serve on website subcommittee
- 8. Schedule next meeting: An on-line poll will be emailed to the committee to schedule the next meeting.
- 9. Adjourn 8:42