



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

*April 14, 2016*

*7 pm to 9 pm*

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

Call to Order at 7:03 pm

In Attendance: Jay Aron, Carol Ann Baker, Rachel Calabro, James Cole, Ayla Fox, Roger Gibson, Christopher Grube, Maureen Kennelly, Sean Henry, Madeline Jeffery, Meg Kerr, James Leigh, Bruce Loeckler, Joe MacAndrew, Dennis Migneault, Denise Poyer, Richard Seager, Denise Stetson, Fredrick Wagner

Approval of Minutes from March 2, 2016 meeting  
Unanimously approved.

Financial Report  
No expenditures to date.

### Old Business

1. Status of NPS Cooperative Agreement with WPWA
  - a. Cooperative agreement has been signed and the budget has been approved.
  - b. Still waiting to get final approval from DOI so that the funds will become available in the system. That is why there have been no expenditures to date.
2. Subcommittee Structure
  - a. Tabled until next meeting.
3. Committee members' expertise and interest
  - a. The chart is being updated and will be posted on the website. This chart will be used to help committee members divide themselves up into subcommittees.

### New Business

1. Outreach Committee report
  - a. The four members of the Outreach Committee meet for the first time on April 4, 2016.

- b. It was decided that at first the committee's responsibilities will focus on developing a logo and visual materials for use on letterhead, pamphlets, videos and the website. We will draw in other Study Committee members or general public to help with outreach materials as that becomes appropriate.
    - c. Logo examples were reviewed and the committee settled on certain symbols and styles to be used. The committee will develop 3 or 4 samples and present these to the full Study Committee for final approval when they are ready, tentatively by the next meeting.
2. Virtual tour of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed
  - a. Denise did a presentation on watershed basics and a rough overview of the geology of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed. Using Google maps and photos she did a virtual tour of some of the highlights of the rivers under study.
3. Explanation of Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers
  - a. Rachel discussed the history and activities of the Partnership Wild and Scenic committee. Because the rivers to be protected on the east coast are not, for the most part, under federal ownership NPS developed a different approach to managing and protecting the designated rivers. While each system is different this basically involves developing a partnership with local and state organizations that will share in the stewardship of the rivers.
  - b. The Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Study Committee will use these partnerships as a model as we develop our report.
  - c. The Partnership Committee is comprised of all the Wild and Scenic designated rivers in the northeast, about 10 groups, and has regular phone meetings as well as a yearly in person meeting. They have the capability of advocating for rivers with members of Congress. This can be helpful in making sure that NPS allocates funding for these rivers. Denise will be invited to attend the meetings.
4. Explanation of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV's)
  - a. Rachel further explained what ORV's are and a little about how they are identified by other Partnership Rivers.
  - b. A river only needs one ORV to qualify for designation, but the committee's consensus was to endeavor to identify as many ORV's in each of the rivers as possible.
  - c. ORV's may be very specific or grouped as the committee deems appropriate. For instance, we many want to have Fisheries included with Wildlife or Habitat. Or, as with the Taunton Watershed, we may decide that it is a high criterion for this watershed and have it as a separate item.
5. Review of potential ORV's for the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed
  - a. Denise presented the document originally developed by the committee to get the Wild and Scenic Study bill passed. River segments and their potential ORV's, as determined by the collective expertise of that previous committee, are listed.
  - b. Denise will develop a list of all potential ORV's to be sent to the committee for review.

6. Identify first ORV to be studied by the committee and resources needed
  - a. The committee decided to start with an explanation of the geology of the watershed. Denise will solicit some speakers to present at the next meeting.
7. Presentation of other Wild and Scenic Rivers Study committees
  - a. Rachel covered this under items 3 & 4.
  - b. Tentative subcommittees were discussed. The committee is leaning towards dividing up according to ORV's rather than by individual river segments. This will be discussed more at the next meeting.
8. GIS mapping
  - a. We will be going into this more thoroughly as the committee starts to identify specific needs. WPWA does have in-house staff that will do the work.
  - b. Denise will post maps of each river's sub-watershed on the website for committee review. Please give feedback concerning these – such as content, color, complexity, etc.
9. Text regarding Wild and Scenic Study for use by watershed towns in Comprehensive Plans (RI) and Plan of Conservation and Development (CT)
  - a. Many towns in RI are in the process of updating their Comprehensive plans. The statuses of the CT towns updates are unknown at this point.
  - b. Denise will develop a letter to be sent to each of the towns' planning departments that will explain in general what the Wild and Scenic Study process and how this information may be included in the updated plans. Sean will help with the text. Denise will include specifics for each town.

#### Schedule Next Meeting

Denise will send out a scheduling email shortly for the May meeting.

Adjourned at 8:58 pm.

#### Action Items

Jamie:

- Update status of NPS and WPWA Cooperative Agreement
- Select a topic about the Wild and Scenic Rivers study process to present at the next meeting.

Sean:

- Provide text concerning what planners need to know about the Wild and Scenic Study process for Comp Plan updates.

Dave:

- Develop a 15 minute presentation about the lower Pawcatuck River for next meeting.

Denise:

- Update Committee lists and post maps on the website.
- Contact geology presenter for next meeting.
- Provide a list of potential ORV's to the committee.
- Send letters to each town planning departments concerning adding text about Wild and Scenic Study to their Comp Plans.