



Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Committee Minutes

June 27, 2016

7 pm to 9 pm

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

Call to Order at 7:00 pm

In Attendance: Jay Aron, Ken Burke, James Cole, Roger Gibson, Christopher Grube, Madeline Jeffery, Maureen Kennelly, James Leigh, Bruce Loeckler, Joe MacAndrew, Dennis Migneault, Denise Poyer, Dave Prescott, Louis Sposato, Denise Stetson, Fredrick Wagner

Presentation: Bryon Oakley, Assistant Professor of Environmental Geoscience, Department of Environmental Earth Science, Eastern Connecticut State University, presented on southern New England glacial geology with a focus on the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed. A video of the presentation and a copy of the PowerPoint slides are posted on the website.

Approval of Minutes from May 25, 2016 meeting
Unanimously approved.

Financial Report

1. Denise reported on expenditures to date and provided a spreadsheet. To date, \$14.86K has been spent of the \$56K in the FY16 budget. She received approval for contracts and equipment purchase, but there had been no mechanism in place to approve hours for the WPWA staff.
2. MOTION made by Bruce Loeckler to have Denise and WPWA staff obtain approval from the Committee Chairperson for WPWA staff hours before submitting for reimbursement from NPS. Motion passed unanimously.

Subcommittee Reports

1. The Outreach Subcommittee report
 - a. They are developing rack cards, stationary, and business cards.
 - b. They meet with the website developer, making several decisions about the look and function of the website.
 - i. Two domain names have been registered: WPWildRivers.org and WPWildRiver.org.
 - ii. A home page will be developed first with brief information about the rivers and Wild and Scenic process.

- iii. Full website function could come as early as late fall.
- c. Denise will start to manage a Twitter and Instagram account. She will be looking for photographs of various scenes around the watershed.

Old Business

1. Status of National Park Service (NPS) Cooperative Agreement with WPWA: An updated version of the Cooperative Agreement that adds an additional \$12,000 funding, has been signed by both parties and the budget has been approved. That brings the total budget to \$56,000 for the fiscal year.
 - a. A question came up regarding the deposition of funds left over at the end of each fiscal year. Denise will check with Jamie and report under new business.
2. An email and a letter has been sent out to all the town planners in RI regarding incorporating language concerning Wild and Scenic into the towns' comprehensive plans. Denise has not sent out the CT yet because it will be several years before they will be updating their comprehensive plans. The committee's consensus was to send the text to the CT planners as well so they have it in case they will be adding addendums to their town's plans in the next few years.

New Business

1. Linking website to town's websites: As the website is developed Denise will reach out to town managers to request a link to the Wild and Scenic website as a valuable resource for the towns. We will continue this under Old Business as updates develop.
2. Discussion regarding inclusion of the lower Pawcatuck River in the study: The committee discussed the merits of extending the limit of the Pawcatuck River from Pawcatuck Rock, as described in the legislation, to include Little Narragansett Bay. Fred Wagner provided significant data on Little Narragansett Bay. Fred made a motion to extend the limits of the study to include Little Narragansett Bay. There was no second to the motion, and the motion died. .

MOTION made by Dave Prescott to extend the limit of the study to the mouth of the Pawcatuck River, from Pawcatuck Point in Stonington, CT heading generally south southeast to Rhodes Point in Westerly, RI. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Review the list of potential ORV's: In Jamie's presentation he discussed grouping the categories for ORV's to be studied into broader categories. The committee decided to have Denise make an initial outline for this and have the committee approval the final list at the next meeting.

Schedule Next Meeting

1. Next meeting will be at the end of August.
2. Jeff Emidy from RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission has agreed to give a presentation for the committee in August. Denise asked committee members for suggestions of who to ask to present on CT history. Fred Wagner and Madeline Jefferies

will provide names of potential speakers. We will try to have both speakers at the next meeting, limiting the time to 20 min each.

Adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Action items:

Denise

Create a new broad category list for ORV's
Invite CT Historical speaker for next meeting.

To be put under New Business

1. How are unexpended funds handled at the end of each fiscal year. Will FY 16 funds "roll over" to FY 17?
2. Adding a water quality component to the study