



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

***January 26, 2017***

***7 pm to 9 pm***

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

In attendance: Roy Heaton, Sean Henry, Maureen Kennelly, Doug Harris, Madeline Jeffery, Richard Seager, Dennis Migneault, James Leigh, Fred Wagner, Cathy Sparks, Jamie Fosburgh, Dave Prescott, Denise Poyer

Not yet appointed: Virginia Wooten, Nils Wiberg, Peter Paton, Jon Ericson

Approval of Minutes of December 1, 2016 meeting

Approved unanimously with corrections.

Presentation

1. Bradford Dam Fish Passage Project
  - a. Funding for project came from Hurricane Sandy Resiliency Grants.
  - b. Aquatic connectivity projects help with both flood resiliency and habitat restoration.
  - c. The dam will be removed and a series of seven rock weirs will be constructed.
  - d. The new structure will accommodate skilled recreational boaters and also provide a portage path.
2. In general the committee felt that this project would enhance connectivity for fish and improve recreational values. The committee had no comments to add to the project.

Financial Report

1. As of Jan. 24, 2017 we have expended \$35,095.87, with the most recent request for reimbursement of \$3,396.6600 made on Jan. 24, 2017.
2. On Jan. 24, 2017, Sean Henry approved a total of 58 hours for Denise for the periods ending Dec. 29, 2016 and Jan. 14, 2017 for a total of \$2,030.00
3. To date for the fiscal year, Denise has worked a total of 701 hours, totaling \$24,535.00
4. After allowing for all the funds allocated for this budget, Denise identified about \$5,000 that was still available. She suggested moving \$3500 into her hours. The committee asked which items the funds would come from. Denise will prepare a revised budget which will show that. She will present it at the next meeting.

Subcommittee Reports

1. Outreach Subcommittee
  - a. Rack cards will be finalized next week
  - b. Website is under development. Will potentially be up by end of Feb.
  - c. Outreach committee meets next week and will discuss further outreach materials.

2. Beaver/Chipuxet/Queen Rivers
  - a. Segments have been assigned with classifications
3. Wood River
  - a. Segments have been assigned with classifications
  - b. Potential ORV's are being discussed
4. Pawcatuck River
  - a. Segments have been assigned with classifications
5. Shunock/Green Falls River
  - a. Segments have been discussed. Classifications will be assigned next week.
  - b. Questions concerning how to deal with important tributaries
    - i. Jamie suggested gathering information on important tributaries. We can decide later how to handle them in the report.

#### Old Business

1. Report on New England Rivers Study Committees meeting Dec. 9, 2016
  - a. Denise sent out a report on the meeting to committee members.
  - b. Several new agenda items were the result of that meeting.
  - c. There will be another one scheduled in late spring.
2. Nomination and Election of Committee vice chair (tabled from last meeting)
  - a. Dave Prescott was elected Vice Chair

#### New Business

1. New committee members
  - a. Doug Harris from the Narragansett Indian Tribe Historical Preservation Office
    - i. The question was asked as to what the tribes role can be in the committee
    - ii. Consensus of the committee is that the tribe is a resident of the watershed and as such will be treated the same as a town. They are allowed to appoint up to two representatives to be voting members of the committee
  - b. Cathy Sparks from RIDEM
  - c. Virginia Wooten, awaiting appointment from Charlestown
  - d. Nils Weiberg, awaiting appointment from Charlestown
  - e. Peter Paton, awaiting appointment from Richmond
  - f. Jon Ericson, awaiting appointment from Westerly
2. Other members for subcommittees
  - a. Denise has received several responses from towns that already have two representatives. She suggested these people could help on subcommittees
    - i. They would not be voting members but may have resources that will assist the subcommittees
  - b. Denise will send their information to the appropriate subcommittee chairs so that they can invite them
3. Budget for the second year of study
  - a. At Jamie's suggestion Denise developed a proposed budget for \$20,000. Jamie has also suggested she develop a \$60,000 because they may be able to make the whole appropriation at once.
4. Time table of study
  - a. Denise presented a slightly revised time table.
  - b. NPS wants to have the river segments, classifications, and potential ORV's by March so that they can begin to write their report
5. Town support for study report and stewardship plan
  - a. In order to get congressional support for the designation the committee will work towards having the towns pass resolutions to:

- i. Support the designation of the rivers
    - ii. Adopt the stewardship plan, possibly into their comprehensive plans
  - b. This will mean on-going outreach to all the towns, tribe, and state agencies. The committee will discuss this in more detail at the next meeting.
6. NPS response to Federal Railroad Administration proposal to reroute tracks in the watershed
  - a. NPS is writing a letter to FRA, which needs to be approved by DOI, to make sure the Wood-Pawcatuck Rivers are listed as part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System while under study. As such NPS will need to be consulted regarding any plans that could impact the rivers.
  - b. Denise will send a copy of the letter to the committee and to Congressman Langevin's office when it is available.
7. Using the term "Stewardship Plan" instead of "Management Plan"
  - a. The committee agreed to use the term Stewardship Plan
8. Land and Water Summit
  - a. Motion approved to allocate \$200 from the budget to pay for registration to the Summit by committee members.
  - b. Denise will send out links to the Summit website. Anyone interested should get back to her.

#### Schedule Next Meeting

1. Denise will send out a link to schedule the next meeting for the end of February

Adjourn at 9:04 pm

#### New Items

Revised budget

New budget

How to handle tributaries

Outreach strategies to towns

#### Action Items

##### **Denise**

Revise current budget to move funds into Denise's hours

Show \$200 allocated to Land and Water Summit

Develop new budget for 2017 with the \$60,000

Send out ORV list to committee

Send out link to Land and Water Summit