



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

June 1, 2017

7 pm to 9 pm

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

In attendance: Christopher Grube, Roy Heaton, Maureen Kennelly, Sean Henry, Madeline Jeffery, Richard Seager, Dennis Migneault, Dave Prescott, Joe MacAndrew, Tom McCormick, Fred Wagner, Virginia Wootten, Jay Aron, Cathy Sparks, Denise Poyer, Sarah Bursky

Not yet appointed: Harrison Gatch

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Presentation

1. Alan Libby, Senior Wildlife Biologist with RIDEM, gave a presentation on the fishes of the Pawcatuck River.

Approval of Minutes of April 6, 2017 meeting

Approved unanimously.

Financial Report

1. Denise's report
 - a. As of May 16, 2017 we have expended \$51,594.41 with the most recent request for reimbursement of \$7745.76 made on May 16, 2017.
 - b. On May 9, 2017, Sean Henry approved a total of 140 hours for Denise for the period from March 10 to May 4, 2017 for a total of \$4,900.00
 - c. To date for the fiscal year, Denise has worked a total of 1000 hours, totaling \$35,000.00
2. The request for the next \$60,000 budget has been submitted to NPS and is waiting for approval by their budget office.

Old Business

1. Outreach activities to towns
 - a. Outreach Subcommittee has developed a fact sheet and is working on a PowerPoint presentation and a poster.

- b. At the next meeting in July outreach materials will be provided to all the committee members. We will also review the PowerPoint presentation with the committee.
 - c. Committee members will be able to use the presentation for meetings with town committees.
 - d. Stonington has asked for a presentation to the Town Selectmen. Denise will contact them to arrange a date.
 - e. It was suggested that committee members do a table at their local farmers market at least once during the summer this year.
2. Resources list – Denise will send a link to everyone to access the resource list on the website.
3. Website – Is up. Some sections, such as Rivers, are still having information added. Need more photos.
4. NPS Report
 - a. Sarah and Denise have sent out a rough draft of the “Eligibility” portion of the report. This has been organized by watershed ORVs. It was felt that this format would work better for Congress.
 - b. Committee expressed support for the report’s format.
 - c. Question was asked about how far out of ¼ mile boundary can we go when we talk about resources. Sarah said that the resources need to be river related, but other resources can be mentioned in the stewardship report.
5. Stewardship Plan
 - a. Denise is working with RIDEM to convene a summit that will include people from RIDEM and Statewide Planning in RI, CT DEEP, and town planners.
 - i. They will share what is already available for plans, such as State Wildlife Action Plan, Outdoor Recreation Plan, Forestry Management Plans, and town Comprehensive Plans, which may pertain to protecting the ORVs of the rivers.
 - ii. From this summit we hope to develop a framework for the committee to use to write the Stewardship Plan.
 - b. This Plan will need to be approved by the towns when they approve support for Wild and Scenic designation.
 - c. The NPS Report will refer to the Stewardship Plan to show town and local support to protect the rivers’ ORVs.
 - d. Denise passed out a matrix showing all the elements that will be needed for the NPS Study Report and the Stewardship Plan.
 - i. She suggested that we may want to reform the subcommittees around the ORVs and other elements of the Stewardship Plan.
 - ii. Denise will create a draft of the new subcommittee structure.
6. Photo Contest – will likely start the beginning of September.
7. Aerial photography – will be postponed until the fall.

New Business

1. Committee Events – Denise will organize two events for the committee to get to know the watershed better
 - a. Estuary tours with Dave and Fred
 - b. Driving tour of the dam projects on the Pawcatuck River
2. Source to Sea paddle trip will be arranged for October. Denise will solicit committee members to help.

Subcommittee Reports

1. Pawcatuck River
 - a. Each committee member has been working on meeting with town committees to share Status Report.
2. Shunock/Green Falls River
 - a. Updated information for each river for the website.

Schedule Next Meeting

1. Hold meeting in July. Denise will send out NeedtoMeet link.
2. Suggestions for other presentations:
 - a. Dam removal projects
 - b. Wildlife in the watershed – mammals and waterfowl

Adjourn at 9:00 pm

Action Items

Denise

- Contact Stonington Selectmen to arrange date for presentation
- Email link to Resource Document to full committee
- Organize driving tour of Pawcatuck River dams with Chris and Nils
- Arrange a date with Fred and Dave for the estuary tour
- Create draft for new subcommittee structure
- Post slide presentations

Committee members

- Send Denise any new resources to be included in the list. Please be descriptive as to what the resource is.
- Review examples of Management Plans