



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

April 6, 2017

7 pm to 9 pm

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

In attendance: Roy Heaton, Maureen Kennelly, Richard Diamond, Sean Henry, Madeline Jeffery, Richard Seager, Dennis Migneault, James Leigh, Nils Wiberg, Dave Prescott, Jon Ericson, Joe MacAndrew, Tom McCormick, Fred Wagner, Virginia Wootten, Denise Poyer

Not yet appointed: Peter Paton, Harrison Gatch

Approval of Minutes of March 2, 2017 meeting
Approved unanimously with corrections.

Presentation

1. None

Financial Report

1. Denise's report
 - a. As of March 21, 2017 we have expended \$43,476.47 with the most recent request for reimbursement of \$4,093.94 made on March 21, 2017.
 - b. On March 20, 2017, Sean Henry approved a total of 72 hours for Denise for the period from Feb. 10 to March 9, 2017 for a total of \$2,552.00
 - c. To date for the fiscal year, Denise has worked a total of 860 hours, totaling \$30,100.00
2. Denise and Jamie are working on submitting a request to NPS for the new \$60,000 budget.

Old Business

1. New committee members
 - a. Approved
 - i. Tom McCormick from Richmond, RI, Richard Diamond, Jr. from North Kingstown, and Virginia Wootten from Charlestown have all been approved by their towns.
 - b. Still waiting for approval
 - i. Hank Webster from West Greenwich, RI, Harrison Gatch from Westerly and Peter Paton from Richmond, are still awaiting approval.
2. Land and Water Summit Report

- a. Two committee members, Dennis Migneault and Dick Seager, attended. Speaker and workshops were good. Networking with other environmental groups made it worthwhile.
- 3. Outreach strategies to towns
 - a. Outreach Committee
 - i. Working on fact sheet to use as a handout for presentations
 - ii. Developing a poster
 - iii. Developing a slide show
 - iv. Suggested we develop a standing display with fact sheets and rack cards
 - v. Could also be a revolving photo display
 - b. Developing a database for town and organization contacts
 - i. Have committee members send names of local and town organizations, along with names and contact information, to Denise
- 4. Resources list
 - a. Denise was looking for alternatives to Google Docs.
 - i. Suggested we try Dropbox
 - ii. Another suggestion was that it should be just one person who develops and updates the list
 - iii. The list will be located on the website
- 5. Website
 - a. Nearly completed. Should be up next week.
 - b. Denise will send out a link to the committee members for them to review and make suggestions for changes.

New Business

- 1. River segment classifications
 - a. Denise presented buffer analysis of the rivers to use as a tool to assess the current classifications.
 - b. Based on the information there were three suggested changes to the classifications.
 - i. Change Shunock from Scenic to Recreation
 - ii. Change Wood River Headwaters from Scenic to Wild
 - iii. Change Lower Wood River from Scenic to Recreation
 - iv. The subcommittees will decide about the changes.
- 2. Stewardship Report
 - a. Denise passed out reports from Eightmile River study. Suggested we more or less model our report on theirs.
 - b. Some things to consider
 - i. Utilize existing reports, such as state management plans.
 - ii. The report should not look like a government agency document.
 - iii. Jamie suggested that the committee conduct a workshop, which could be facilitated by Jamie or Sarah. Participants would be state agencies, local land trusts and other non-profits.
 - 1. Denise is considering having two workshop - first with just agencies and local non-profits and second with towns
 - iv. Purpose of the workshop will be to share all the information that may be pertinent to the Stewardship Plan.
 - c. Update on ORVs

- i. Denise will be working with Sarah to go over what has been submitted by the subcommittees. They will decide what needs to be edited and if there is any more information needed from the subcommittees.
3. Maps for the reports
 - a. Denise is organizing a meeting with GIS specialist to discuss what types of mapping information is available to the committee.
 - b. It would be helpful for the committee to start a list of the types of maps they would like.
 - i. Suggested that we use the list of maps from the Eightmile River report and then see if there is any we need to add.
4. Photo Contest
 - a. A subcommittee has formed to develop a Wild and Scenic Rivers Photo Contest. Partners include land trusts and conservation commissions from around the watershed.
 - b. The contest will be used as an outreach tool to generate excitement about the W&S designation and obtain good photos.
 - c. The committee will raise funds for prizes.
5. Helicopter session to photograph the watershed
 - a. Denise would like to use a helicopter to get a better perspective of the watershed for videos and photos.
 - b. Suggested we check
 - i. National Guard training flights
 - ii. Lighthawk offers free rides to non-profits.
 - iii. Roy offered to fly the photographer for free.
 - iv. Denise will set up a time to fly with Roy and Ayla this spring
 - c. Suggested we wait until the fall to get the colors and have the forest cover

Subcommittee Reports

1. Beaver/Chipuxet/Queen Rivers
 - a. Has moved the Chipuxet to the Pawcatuck River
 - b. Finished their ORVs
2. Wood River
 - a. Finished ORVs
3. Pawcatuck River
 - a. Chipuxet and lower section of Usquepaugh are now considered part of the Great Swamp and classified as Wild.
 - b. Divided ORVs into 6 categories.
4. Shunock/Green Falls River
 - a. Finished ORVs

Schedule Next Meeting

1. Consensus to hold the meeting on May 4, 2017.
2. Denise asked that the committee members arrive around 6:30 pm so we can get a photograph of the group.
3. Alan Libby from RIDEM to will talk about fish in the watershed

Adjourn at 8:40 pm

Action Items

Denise

- Post meeting notes and subcommittee meeting notices for the full committee
- Email Resource Document to full committee
- Start a database of town and community groups for presentations
- Send out link to website

Committee members

- Send Denise any new resources to be included in the list. Please be descriptive as to what the resource is.
- Send Denise names and contact information for town and community groups to invite to presentations.
- Think about poster
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