



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

***Aug 24, 2017***

***7 pm to 9 pm***

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

In attendance: Christopher Grube, Roy Heaton, Sean Henry, Madeline Jeffery, Richard Seager, Dave Prescott, Virginia Wootten, Peter Paton, Harrison Gatch, Nils Wiberg, James Leigh, Jamie Fosburgh, Maureen Kennelly, Meg Kerr, Dennis Migneault, Denise Poyer

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Presentation

1. Tour of the dam projects on the Pawcatuck River.

Approval of Minutes of July 18, 2017 meeting

Approved unanimously.

Financial Report

1. Denise's report
  - a. As of August 8, 2017 we have expended \$59,114.15 with the most recent request for reimbursement of \$2,215.55 made on August 8, 2017.
  - b. On July 14, 2017, Sean Henry approved a total of 128 hours for Denise for the period from May 4 to July 14, 2017 for a total of \$4,480.00
  - c. To date for the fiscal year, Denise has worked a total of 1169 hours, totaling \$41,405.00

Old Business

1. Outreach activities to towns
  - a. Fact sheets and flash drives with slide show presentation were distributed to committee members.
  - b. Nils and Virginia have already reached out to the Charlestown Town Manager. They created a letter of introduction for the outreach materials. Denise will send out the letter for others to use.
  - c. Committee members are asked to start reaching out and meeting with town boards and commissions.
    - i. One suggestion was to have a meeting for all Land Trusts at the WPWA Office for a presentation. Denise will look into this in Sept.

- ii. The committee hopes to complete the outreach to boards by the end of the year.
2. NPS Report
  - a. Sarah and Denise have worked out the draft of the “Eligibility” portion of the report. Jim Leigh and Sean Henry agreed to review it. Jamie said it is pretty complete and ready for review by NPS.
3. Stewardship Plan
  - a. Notes from the Stewardship Summit held July 26, 2017 were distributed to the committee. Sean, Dennis and Dave discussed their impressions of the summit. It was felt that the Summit was very helpful to:
    - i. Understand what plans and strategies are already being used in the watershed.
    - ii. Where there might be gaps for protection
    - iii. Suggestions for future actions
  - b. Denise is organizing a meeting with appropriate parties in CT for late Sept. She hopes to meet with Eric Thomas and the Eightmile River Coordinator. Once a date has been set she will invite town planners, in-land wetland commissions, and town representatives from the CT towns for a similar summit.
  - c. Jamie developed a draft outline based on the summit outcomes (see attached). The committee reviewed the outline. They agreed to focus their work on section II for next meeting. Denise will flesh out each item for Section II based on a review of the Eightmile River Plan.
  - d. Each committee member is asked to review that plan and possibly the Lower Farmington River Plan. At the next meeting they will discuss how to develop assignments for writing the Stewardship Plan.

#### New Business

1. Restructuring the subcommittees
  - a. Discussion started on how to restructure the subcommittees based on what is needed to do the Stewardship Plan. This will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

#### Subcommittee Reports

1. Outreach committee is still working on the poster. They asked the committee to think about possible slogans and ideas for the posters. It was agreed to keep the text very short. One idea suggested is to have several posters with different text.

#### Schedule Next Meeting

1. Denise will notify the committee by Monday, Aug. 28 what the date will be for the September meeting. The committee agreed to focus on the Stewardship Plan and therefore have no presentation at this meeting.

#### Adjourn at 8:50 pm

#### Action Items

Denise:

- Send copy of Charlestown letter of introduction to committee
- Confirm next meeting date
- Develop outline for Section II using information from Eightmile River and Lower Farmington Plan

Look into scheduling a meeting for local land trusts at WPWA

Study Committee Members:

- Come back with plan for outreach in your town – what boards and commissions to contact and what progress has been made
- Let Denise know about any particular questions or concerns that come up at these meetings
- Read the Eightmile River Management Plan (and Lower Farmington River if you want) – they are on the website
- Think about how we would could flesh out the outline for the plan
  - How would you like to be involved with the plan development
- Suggestions for slogans for the posters

## Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Stewardship Plan

### Draft Outline (For Committee Discussion)

7-31-2017

(acknowledgements)

(Study Committee members and other contributors)

(Message from Study Committee Chair)

- I. Introduction and Background (Denise & Sarah)
  - Use models from previous management plans and information from Reconnaissance Report
  - Include working across state lines
  - Meg will start this with a note from the committee – to personalize
- II. Winning Strategies for the Pawcatuck Watershed (use information from Stewardship summit) (Denise & Study Committee)
  - Interweave climate change throughout this section
  - Core of State Protections for Water Quality and Sensitive Habitats
  - Legacy of Land Conservation
  - Aquatic Connectivity and Streamflow
  - Municipal Planning and Local Capacity
  - Education and Outreach
  - Threats and Challenges for the Future
  - Add action strategies for the future
- III. Protecting and Enhancing Outstanding Natural Cultural and Recreational Values by Sub-Basin/River Segment (use information from each subcommittee)

For each segment or sub-basin:

- 1) short description of ORV's and Character, recommended WSR classification (wild, scenic, recreational). Any known threats or issues. Etc.
- 2) Specifics where we have them for each ORV.....

IV. Wild and Scenic River Designation (NPS section)

- Describe the protections that WSR designation can provide
- Describe limitations of federal role
- Describe what WSR designation does not do

V. Working Together into the Future: Role of the Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council (Denise & Study Committee)

- Recommended make-up of the Stewardship Council
- Working with CT & RI agencies
- Role and how they will function
- Etc.