



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

June 5, 2018

7 pm to 9 pm

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

In attendance: Christopher Grube, Sean Henry, Madeline Jeffery, Richard Seager, James Leigh, Fred Wagner, Denise Poyer, Sarah Bursky, Tom McCormick, Virginia Wootten, Roy Heaton, Maureen Kennelly, Dennis Migneault, Jon Ericson, Jamie Fosburgh, Eric Thomas

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Approval of Minutes of April 17, 2018 meeting: Unanimously approved

Financial Report

1. Budget report
 - a. As of May 3, 2018 we have expended \$105,350 of the \$116,000 allotted funds with the most recent requests for reimbursement of \$8,156 made on May 15, 2018.
 - b. On May 10, 2018, Sean Henry approved a total of 54 hours for Denise for the period from to April 20 to May 3, 2018 for a total of \$3115.
 - c. To date for the project, Denise has worked a total of 1,928 hours, totaling \$67,480.
2. New budget for 2018 - Still waiting for approval from NPS for another \$50,000. This will be the end of funding under the 5 year cooperative.
3. Motion made to have Sean approve any changes to line items in the budget as necessary. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. Stewardship Plan
 - a. Comments regarding plan
 - i. Only RIDEM sent comments that related to content. The Study Committee reviewed Denise's response to the comments and agreed to have them included in the Stewardship Plan.
 - ii. Eric Thomas is still waiting to receive comments and information from CT DEEP divisions. He will provide them to Denise by the end of next week.
 - iii. Eric expressed concern that the recommendations for towns in the Mason report were not very substantial. The Study Committee consensus was that the report was more to document measures in place at the town, state

- and federal level to protect the rivers. When the Stewardship Council is formed they may decide to add more suggestions for the towns.
- iv. Eric also related that the Eightmile River Watershed Council had some problems when they went to the towns with several suggestions for town regulations. It was felt that it will be the responsibility of the town representatives to make sure the towns are kept informed of what is going on in the Stewardship Council and bring any concerns back to them.
 - v. Denise will add a statement in the Stewardship Council section to that effect.
- b. Motion made to accept the final version of the Stewardship Plan, with comments and corrections as noted above. Motion passed unanimously.
 - i. Discussion centered on the fact that there may still be more comments and additions coming in from the towns.
 - ii. Many committee members felt that it was important to ask the towns to endorse a final version. The committee can always decide to amend the Stewardship Plan if any of the comments were of a substantial change the contents and actions of the plan.
 - iii. The committee assigned Denise and Sean to review any new comments and make the determination if the committee should vote to amend the Plan.
 - iv. Jamie noted that we will need to put the approval date, June 5, 2018, on the plan.
2. Outreach activities to towns
 - a. Denise, Sean, Maureen, and Dennis attend the Hopkinton Town Council meeting on June 4, 2018. They voted to approve a resolution supporting the Wild and Scenic Rivers designation and endorsing the Stewardship Plan!
 - b. Denise shared the schedule of Town Council and Board of Selectmen meetings. Representatives from the towns are asked to attend if they are able.
 - c. Denise is holding a Wood River paddle on Saturday, June 9 from 10 to 2 pm. Committee members are invited to join.
 3. Timeline to submit bill to congress
 - a. July – by the end of July we should have all the resolutions of support from the twelve towns.
 - b. August – Sarah and Denise will finalize the NPS Eligibility Report
 - c. September – Denise will work with the congressional delegates of both states to submit a bill to congress amending the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
 4. References and resources for Stewardship Plan and website – Denise will send out her list of what was used for the Stewardship Plan. Please review and send her back any omissions or corrections.

New Business

1. Future activities of the Study Committee – Sean discussed some options for the committee to consider after the bill is submitted.
 - a. Review and approve the NPS Eligibility Report
 - b. Begin the transition to the Stewardship Council – this can be done even before the bill is passed. We would be able to use the funding left from the 5 year cooperative agreement with WPWA.
 - c. Start to consider projects from the Stewardship Plan – we can look for grants to do these projects if NPS funding has not been appropriated.
2. Support letter request – Elizabeth Scott from RI DEM requested a letter of support for a grant that RI DEM and CT DEEP are submitting to SNEP to conduct an “Evaluation of

Nutrient Loadings to Pawcatuck River Estuary and Little Narragansett Bay: In Support of Development of a New Watershed-based Approach to Analyzing and Managing Nutrient Impacts to Coastal Esuaries”. The committee felt that this project would serve to improve habitat in the lower Pawcatuck River.

- a. Motioned made to have Sean send a letter of support for the grant applications.
Motion passed unanimously.

Schedule Next Meeting

1. The committee agreed to meet in early September. Denise will send out a Needtomeet.

Adjourn at 8:30 pm