



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

September 13, 2018

7 pm to 9 pm

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

In attendance: Madeline Jeffery, Richard Seager, James Leigh, Fred Wagner, Sarah Bursky, Tom McCormick, Maureen Kennelly, Dennis Migneault, Dave Prescott, Sarah Bursky, Denise Poyer, Eric Thomas

Meeting called to order at 7:08 pm. There were only 5 towns represented so there was not a quorum. It was understood by those present that there could be no votes taken. However, agenda items were discussed.

Approval of Minutes of June 5, 2018 meeting: Tabled to next meeting because there was not a quorum.

Financial Report

1. Budget report

- a. A new cooperative agreement was signed in July 2018 between NPS and WPWA which allots \$50,000 more to the budget. This brings the total up to \$166,000 for this project with an expected completion date no later than June 2020.
- b. As of September 4, 2018 we have expended \$116,567 of the \$166,000 allotted funds. From June to September we have requested reimbursements of \$10,710.
- c. Sean Henry approved 210 hours for Denise for the period from to June 1 to August 23, 2018 for \$7,350.
- d. To date for the project, Denise has worked a total of 2,138 hours, totaling \$74,830.

Old Business

1. Stewardship Plan Final

- a. New material was provided by CT DEEP that will be incorporated into the final plan.
- b. Preliminary research on the cost of printing the Stewardship Plan indicates a price of about \$40 per plan. The committee agreed to an initial goal of printing 100 copies. Plan would be to get these printed by October.
- c. The copies would go to each town, town library, and possibly schools. Copies would also go to current committee members and future Stewardship Council members.

2. Outreach activities to towns

- a. Outstanding letters of support
 - i. We have received most of the letters from town committees and other organizations. We are waiting for letters from CT DEEP, RI and CT Governor, and Save The Bay.
 - b. Reporting future actions
 - i. Denise will develop a short report about the progress to date for approval of Wild and Scenic designation and next steps. This will be distributed to the town reps so that they can pass this along to their town councils and board of selectmen by the end of September.
 - ii. After November elections we will send another report to the towns explaining the formation of the Stewardship Council.
3. Submit bill to congress
 - a. Denise has been in touch with the congressional delegates from both states. She has provided a draft of the bill for their use. The hope is that the bill can be submitted to congress by the beginning of October to coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
 4. NPS Report progress
 - a. Sarah has all the pieces needed to complete the report. She is working with Denise to do some final editing, which should be done by the end of September.
 - b. A final draft will then be circulated internally at NPS for comments and corrections.
 - c. Once NPS approves the final draft it will be submitted for a 90 day public comment period.
 - d. Final approval is expected sometime early next year.
 5. Future activities of the Study Committee
 - a. The committee has completed all of their requirements as required by the study bill. However, they agreed to continue to meet in order to establish a Stewardship Council.
 - b. The committee will continue to be responsible for decisions regarding the budget until the Stewardship Council is formed.

New Business

1. Formation of the Stewardship Council
 - a. Dennis Migneault volunteered to develop a job description for the Stewardship Council representative based on Chapter 7 of the Stewardship Plan.
 - b. After the November elections a request will be sent to the towns asking that they appoint a representative and alternate to the Stewardship Council. A copy of the job description will be sent as well.
 - c. It is anticipated that it will take at least a few months for towns to appoint new representatives. These may include some of the same people that served on the Study Committee.
 - d. The Study Committee will endeavor to make the transition as smooth as possible.
 - e. The Stewardship Council will be able to function and utilize the remaining funds from the study.
 - f. The Stewardship Council will also be able to apply for grants and other funds through WPWA.
2. Prioritizing the Stewardship Plan
 - a. Some ideas were discussed but basically the committee feels this will be the job of the Stewardship Council.
 - b. The Council can develop a strategic plan that utilizes the Stewardship Plan as a menu.

- c. The council may consider utilizing a charrette or summit to get the process started.
 - d. One suggestion was to start with something positive, such as a focus on education or recreation activities.
3. New Coordinator
- a. Denise is retiring at the end of December 2018.
 - b. WPWA is in the process of searching for a replacement who will primarily be the Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinator. That person will also have responsibilities to WPWA for education and recreation programs.
 - c. It is anticipated that the new Coordinator will start early December. This will provide about a month overlap so that Denise can train them.

Schedule Next Meeting

1. The committee agreed to meet in October. Denise will send out a Needtomeet.
2. It was also decided to meet once more in early December.

Adjourn at 8:30 pm