



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

***October 23, 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, Tom McCormick, Dennis Migneault, Dave Prescott, Denise Poyer, Eric Thomas, Nils Wiberg, Roy Heaton, Peter Paton, Christopher Grube, Jon Ericson, Sean Henry

Meeting called to order at 7:08 pm.

Approval of Minutes of June 5, 2018 and September 13, 2018 meetings: Passed unanimously

Financial Report

1. Budget report
  - a. As of October 2, 2018 we have expended \$119,199 of the \$166,000 allotted funds. On Oct. 2 we have requested reimbursements of \$2,631.63.
  - b. Sean Henry approved 53 hours for Denise for the period from August 24 to September 20, 2018 for \$1,855.
  - c. To date for the project, Denise has worked a total of 2,191 hours, totaling \$76,685.

Old Business

1. Stewardship Plan Final
  - a. Cost of printing 100 copies was \$3,565.
  - b. Copies were distributed to Committee members to bring to their towns for distribution.
2. Reports to Towns
  - a. Denise sent out a report to Committee members to forward to their towns. She will resend the report so that they can be sent with the Stewardship Plans.
3. Bills submitted to congress
  - a. Bills were submitted to both the House and Senate on October 2, 2018 to amend the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to include the seven rivers of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed. Press releases were sent by Senator Reed and Congressman Langevin.
  - b. It is unlikely that the bills will be heard in subcommittees this year. We anticipate they will need to be resubmitted next year with the new congress.
4. NPS Report progress

- a. A draft report is being reviewed by NPS staff. Once approved they will send it through a formal review process. The final draft will be submitted for a 90 day public comment period.
  - b. Final approval is expected sometime early next year.
  - c. Funds from the Study committee will be used to pay Elise's time to design the NPS report. Printing will be done by NPS.
5. Formation of the Stewardship Council
- a. Denise suggested that we establish the Stewardship Council next year to continue the momentum of support from the towns and state agencies. The Council will be responsible for determining and conducting priority activities from the Stewardship Plan. Without an entity in place conducting projects in the watershed it would be difficult and time consuming to reestablish the good will from the community.
  - b. Denise will distribute the draft letter that she and Dennis developed to be sent to the towns asking for appointed representatives to the Stewardship Council.
  - c. The final letter will be sent out around Nov. 26, after elections and Thanksgiving.
  - d. The letter will suggest a Jan. 31 deadline for appointments. The Coordinator will need to follow up with the towns to make sure the appointments are filled.
  - e. The committee agreed that realistically the Stewardship Council will start around April of 2019.
  - f. It was clarified that the Stewardship Council will be a separate entity from the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association (WPWA).
    - i. WPWA will have a presence on the Council
    - ii. WPWA will hire and manage the Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinator.
      1. The Coordinator will spend about 20 hours per week on W&S tasks and 15 hours per week on WPWA tasks. They may often overlap.
    - iii. WPWA will continue to serve as the fiscal agent for the Council as long as the Council desires.
      1. At any time the Council could choose another fiscal agent.
      2. The Council could also decide to apply for a 501(c)3 status and become their own fiscal agent.
  - g. It should be clear that the WPWA Board is in support of the Stewardship Council activities and any advocacy on the part of the Coordinator.
  - h. The new Council members will need an orientation to help them understand the Council's purpose.
    - i. The new coordinator will need to develop this program in coordination with the Study Committee chair and co-chair.
    - ii. One suggestion was to provide a tour of the watershed.
6. Prioritizing Stewardship Plan
- a. The committee will develop a list of suggested projects as a starting point for the new Council.
    - i. The consensus was to have actionable items for the Council to start working on.
    - ii. The list will include items from the Stewardship Plan, with three or four suggestions under each of the four ORV's.
    - iii. The first project should be something positive that relates to the watershed as a whole that would involve all the towns.
    - iv. The committee will recommend that the Council solicit further suggestions from the towns concerning projects they would like to have done.

- v. Denise will start a list with what she thinks are priorities and send it out to the committee for their additions.
7. Denise's replacement – WPWA has hired Kassi Archambault to become the Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinator when Denise retires. Kassi will start Dec. 3 and be at the Study Committee meeting in Dec.

#### New Business

1. No new business was discussed.

#### Schedule Next Meeting

1. Last meeting in December.

#### Adjourn at 8:30 pm

#### Denise

- Report to towns
- Letter to solicit new reps
- List of actions