



Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council Minutes

August 28, 2019, 6 pm to 8 pm

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

In Attendance: Charlestown: Neil Wardley; Exeter: Peter Lacouture, Nan Qunilan; Hopkinton: Michael Warner, Elaine Caldarone; North Stonington: Madeline Jeffery, Dick Seagar; Richmond: Pete August; South Kingstown: Dennis Migneault and guest Bill McCusker; Stonington: Fred Wagner, Brian Bottaro; West Greenwich: Chris Grube, Pat Lardner; Westerly: Harvey Perry, Jon Ericson; RI DEM guest speaker Heidi Travers; CT DEEP: Eric Thomas and guest speaker Chris Sullivan; National Park Service: Jamie Fosburgh; WPWA: Joe MacAndrew; Council Coordinator: Kassi Archambault.

Meeting Called to Order at 6:01pm

Presentation (50 Min)

Heidi Travers of RI DEM and Chris Sullivan of CT DEEP, presented, then answered questions on the Pawcatuck Nutrient Study. The project website, which has an interactive story map, is:

www.ct.gov/deep/pawcatucknutrientstudy

1. Resources mentioned: RI DEM completed a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plan, 2010; Scientific Investigation Report, 2019-2020; RI TMDL for the Pawcatuck Estuary; BiState Pawcatuck Estuary Report.
2. Primary sources of nutrients are the waste water treatment facility and agriculture. Pawcatuck River is mostly affected after a rain event / wet weather
3. The watershed is researched for nutrient loading since it is a large watershed emptying in a small area, the estuarine Pawcatuck and Little Narragansett Bay. DEM chose the locations for the data to be collected and DEEP installed them. Many are monitoring sub-basins, such as Beaver River and Wood River.
4. In the future, RI DEM and CT DEEP hope for the Stewardship Council's help in communicating with the public and advocating for policies to decrease the nutrient load. Examples: pet waste ordinances, best practices in agriculture. Strategy: community liaisons are effective. Timeline: These state agencies will follow up once they have data.

Secretary's Report: Approval of Minutes of July 24, 2019 meeting Motion to Accept: Pete L.; 2nd: Pete A. All in favor, none opposed.

Financial Report (5 Min)

Financial Report: July 23 – August 20, 2019

1. Year to Date:

- a. From January 2019 to August 20, 2019 we have expended \$25,834 of the \$166,000 Study Fund 2016 allocation, with \$8,337 remaining.
 - b. Kassi (12/2018-present and 3 weeks of Denise & Kassi working together) has worked a total of 709 hours, totaling \$24,240.
2. July 23 – August 20, 2019 Statement
- a. Beginning Balance of \$11,315; Ending Balance of \$8,337; Deposits: NA; Expenses: \$2,978.
 - b. Indirect Expenses: \$265
 - c. Direct Expenses:
 - i. Project Coordinator Hours: \$2,712 (77 hrs approved by Jon Ericson)
 - d. Monthly allocations were on target.
3. Request for spending and/or reallocation of line items
- a. As the amount of time left in the NPS Quarter and the funds decreases, budget lines must be reallocated. See Remaining Budget and Proposed Spending to Zero Balance.
 - b. Approved spending \$552.76 to cover the transportation and hotel for PWSR Gathering attendance.
 - c. Approved spending \$1,250. to reimburse WPWA for Shed Light Creative for updating videos to reflect the designation has been achieved and for speaking equipment, video and photography at the Wild and Scenic River Celebration on 4/08/19.
4. Approval of Financial Report and Remaining Budget and Proposed Spending to Zero Balance. Motion to Accept: Harvey; 2nd: Dick. All in favor, none opposed.

Old Business (50 Min)

1. Committee Chairs shared committee missions and updates. Brief Discussion.

Committee Name	Purpose	Current Project(s)
Bylaws	Bylaws were adopted! Now finalizing with policies. After a year or more, will review bylaws.	Draft Policies.
Natural Resource Stewardship	Review state and local development proposals and other actions to determine whether they appropriately address the long term protection and enhancement of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed. Recommend what advocacy is needed to assure the outstandingly remarkable values of cultural, scenic and recreational, exceptional ecosystems and hydrology/geology are preserved.	Reviewing and providing comment for draft RI DEM Freshwater Wetland Regulations. Drafting Introduction to Towns Letter.
Information and Education	Inform and promote the values of your Wild and Scenic Rivers. A Primary Duty: Create, and revise as necessary, materials for distribution.	Designing sign for river crossings. Writing home page of the website.
Stewardship Projects	Project implementation based committee. Activity can be writing grants to support own stewardship projects. Select involvement with external projects.	*Mark your calendars! A Signature Event on June 27, 2020. Draft Criteria for Choosing Projects. (A clean up project on Sept 19 th is cancelled.)

2. Bylaws Committee, Jon Ericson as Committee Chair, Presented Bylaws to the Council and sought approval.
 - a. Key sections were visited and explained
 - b. One section was altered during the meeting as to clarify there is one vote per group and that alternative representatives vote when representatives are not present.
 - c. Motion to Accept the Bylaws: Harvey; 2nd: Pete A. The motion passed with 12 votes in favor and 0 against. Members absent in voting: Narragansett Indian Tribe, North Kingstown, Sterling, Voluntown, RI Department of Environmental Management and Save the Bay.

New Business (15 Min)

1. Officer Nominations will be held next Council meeting.
2. Town Updates/Community Flash: Is there anything the towns are doing or interested in, that may be of interest to the Stewardship Council?

Kayak Trail/Boombidge Rd Repairs/Stillman Ave Dam Removal

- a. This is a multiple-town, bi-state project. Westerly and Stonington Town leaders asked the Stewardship Council (SC) for endorsement and federal funds once they become available. North Stonington First Selectmen was asked by Westerly Conservation Commission to submit a letter to the SC seeking the same. North Stonington SC Town Representatives met with First Selectman Mike Urgo, and have set up quarterly meetings. At this time, the Town Representatives don't believe the SC can submit an endorsement letter. The First Selectman is waiting for guidance from the SC before submitting a request letter.
- b. The SC does not have a process by which to assess and respond to such requests. The Stewardship Projects committee is drafting criteria to prioritize projects. The Project Review / Natural Resource Stewardship committee is drafting a letter for all towns to begin building a relationship with town staff and to solicit projects lists.
- c. The SC will be intentional in this process, since it may be positive press and precedence but it might not. Stewardship Projects committee will work on next steps, such as an acknowledgement letter. Town Representatives from the three towns, plus committee members will be involved.
- d. In general, the proposal fits the Stewardship Plan in that it restores river to free flowing, supports new access sites, consider boat access as part of road projects. The proposal may not fit the Stewardship Plan if access sites are created at locations that are not appropriate locations, if use does not support native fish, nor balance multiple uses.
- e. This matter will be further discussed in the Stewardship Projects committee and likely the September Stewardship Council meeting.

Action Items (10 Min)

1. Go to Town Hall, introduce yourself to the Town Planner. Deliver the Introduction to Town letter.
 - a. This letter will be redrafted then sent to all members.
 - b. Town Representatives will revise the letter to be town specific. Inserting their town name where it says "Town," and describing the location of the WSRs and tributaries.
 - c. A goal for next Council meeting will be to discuss strategies for building relationships with, and communicating with town officials and staff.
2. Email town/community updates to Natural Resource Stewardship Committee Chair and Kassi, monthly.

Next Meeting: Fourth Wednesday of each month at 6pm at WPWA. Date is September 25, 2019.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:16 Motion to Accept: Harvey; 2nd: Pete A. All in favor, none opposed.