



Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council Minutes

*November 20, 2019, 6 pm to 8 pm
WPWA Campus, 203 Arcadia Road, Hope Valley, RI 02832*

In Attendance: Exeter: Nan Quinlan; Charlestown: Neil Wardley; Hopkinton: Elaine Caldarone and Mike Warner; North Stonington: Madeline Jeffery and Dick Seager; Richmond: Pete August; South Kingstown: Bill McCusker; Stonington: Fred Wagner; West Greenwich: Chris Grube and Pat Lardner; Westerly: Harvey Perry, Jon Ericson; RI DEM: Cathy Sparks; National Park Service: Jamie Fosburgh; Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association: Brett Still; Council Coordinator: Kassi Archambault.

Meeting Called to Order at 6:02pm

Secretary's Report: Approval of Minutes of October 23, 2019 meeting: Motion to Accept: Fred; 2nd: Chris. All in favor, none opposed.

Financial Report (10 Min)

a. Final September Budgets

Reviewed Budget Sheets 9/3/2019 and 9/30/2019 with relevant Information (below) reported 10/23/2019.

August 21 – September 19, 2019 Statement

- a. Beginning Balance of \$8,337; Ending Balance of zero; Expenses: \$8,337
- b. Indirect Expenses: \$852.72
- c. Direct Expenses:
 - i. Project Coordinator Hours 8/9/19 - 9/19/19: \$5,075 (145 hrs approved by Jon Ericson)
 - ii. Outreach: Reimbursed WPWA for video updates and services at WSR Celebration April 8: \$1,250; Website updates: \$100
 - iii. Planning: GIS mapping for town planner and for Freshwater Wetland Regulations Comment: \$484
 - iv. Miscellaneous: Mileage for Resiliency workshop and event site scouting: \$41.30; half of cost for two to attended workshop PWSR Gathering \$534.22
- d. Monthly allocations were on target. The Council goal of spending down to zero was met on September 19, 2019.

b. Motion to Accept: Fred; 2nd: Elaine. All in favor, none opposed, Brett Still abstained.

- c. September 20 – November 14, 2019 Statement
 - a. RI Foundation Grant of \$30,000 submitted and received by WPWA for Coordinator Salary.
 - b. Beginning Balance of \$30,000, Ending Balance of \$23,735; Expenses: \$6,265.
 - i. Project Coordinator Hours 9/20/19 – 11/14/19: \$6,265. (179 hours approved by Chair Jon Ericson)
 - c. Motion to Accept: Fred; 2nd: Chris. All in favor, none opposed.

Old Business (40 Min)

1. Committee updates. Brief Discussion.
 - a. Projects Committee (5 min)
 - Kassi reported the mission document is finalized and online. The criteria is under revision and will be simplified, based on the Act and ORVs. Kassi compiled resources consisting of how other WSR groups assess enhance projects. Looking for Chair and other members. Kassi will email full Council on need to expand membership.
 - b. Advisory Committee (5 min)
 - Nothing new to report. Meeting next week.
 - Jon reported that Lisa Pellegrini asked for help in applying for a grant to get a waterless boat wash at Chapman's Pond to control invasives. Fully consistent with mission of W&S. Nice to add details in letter of reco about Chapman has an invasives issue and proposal meets DEM.
 - c. Information and Education Committee (15 min)
 - P. August reported. We are developing a means to assess W&S River signs at crossing. Will ask Town Reps for help. Full Council will be updated when we have our plans together. I will quickly demo the online mapping service.
 - We are excited about this! Elaine and Dick had a blast testing this out and visiting their river crossings. Their recon missions were very helpful in working through the purpose and challenges of site visits.
 - Need to look at 8-Mile group in CT. They have done signs for CT State Roads
 - Kassi reported web site updates.
 - All committee members can vote on issues regardless if they are rep or alternate
2. Jon updated that we have insurance coverage for Council as long as we are part of an alliance with WPWA. We will be covered by WPWA policy. D&O policy that covers committee work, events, etc.

New Business (30 Min)

1. Town Updates/Community Flash: Is there anything the towns are doing or interested in, that may be of interest to the Stewardship Council?
 - Fred (1) mentioned feel-good story that Stonington has really become a model for flood plain management. Just a few years ago, they had nothing. (2) U Conn civil engineer students made a plan for a kayak/canoe/dinghy dock put-in site on the Pawcatuck R (Mechanic Street). Students did a great job. Cost about \$70,000. Need to consider parking.
2. Good of the Order – Open discussion on other topics of interest.
 - What do we mean by projects. Harvey Perry led discussion of using the term “enhancement projects” or “development projects” instead of projects. Madeline has an issue with the term project and will present her case in a future meeting.
 - Kassi announced there is a national W&S newsletter (Jennifer Back). We have been asked to provide a one page article. Due Dec 6. She is working with Info & Ed committee.

- Need to get the word out on who we are and what we do. Possibly have a winter/spring rollout. Once we have message would be easy to engage local press. If we get contacts, send people to Kassi.
- Cory Pelletier will brief us in February on DEM freshwater fisheries projects. Cathy says is a great presentation.
- Christ asked about Fuss and O'Neil study – where is the location now? Kassi showed how to navigate wpwa.org web site to find report.
- New member, Brett, briefed group on his background and projects with some detail on dam removal, river herring and shad monitoring and as coordinator of Master of Environmental Science and Management program.

Action Items

1. Introduce yourself to town groups, such as the municipal/local land trust(s), conservation commission. Ask about any planned enhancement projects. You may use the Introduction to Town letter. You may contact them and ask to be added to the agenda or simply visit an upcoming meeting.
3. Continue reading about enhancement and protection projects completed by other Wild and Scenic Groups. Kassi navigated to a NPS web site that has some good documents. Good one to share. <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1912/partnership-wild-and-scenic-rivers.htm> On this same site is a link for the 20 Years of Success article and the WSR Toolkit. Good to surf site to get a sense for what other organizations are. <https://rms.memberclicks.net/PWSRToolkit-Designation>
3. Monthly or when applicable, email Kassi potential agenda topics, including relevant town/community updates.

Around the Table in Five: Each member announces their last thoughts.

Participant comments (names omitted on purpose, sentiments captured):

- Looking forward to a busy, but productive 2020
- mentioned might be able to put signs on crossings in DEM land. Great cookies.
- happy to see positive culture
- Grateful to meet everyone
- Fulfilling last year from DEEP rep.
- proud to be part of council
- happy to be part
- happy to be part
- very happy to meet everyone
- has been an advocate for small Rivers. She has been very happy to be part of the W&S, despite her disdain for the word projects
- declares Info/Ed the most fun committee
- never been on a committee. Spent entire life in a biochem lab, enjoys the interaction.
- asked about Beaver River solar farm. Recent article in ecoRI
- Merry Christmas, happy holidays; great pleasure serving on Council. Loving the energy.
- has developed friendship with fellow rep. In tune with each other. Both in close contact with town.
- very exciting to see Senate has increase funding for the partnership. Need to pass a budget. Will be in good shape for New Year.
- great group, productive year, got a lot done and has been a great experience. Let's have more fun activities. THANKS TO KASSI, HAS BEEN DOING A GREAT JOB
- Group thanks Jon for his service.

Next Meeting: December there is no meeting. Enjoy winter break! January 22, 2020, 6-8pm at WPWA.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:47 PM, Motion: Fred; 2nd: Chris. All in favor, none opposed.