

**Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed
Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council
Minutes**

August 26, 2020, 6 pm to 8 pm

In Attendance: Exeter: Nan Quinlan; Hopkinton: Elaine Caldarone; North Kingstown: Ahren L Cohen; North Stonington: Madeline Jeffery; Richmond: Antonia Bryson, Pete August; South Kingstown: Dennis Migneault, Bill McCusker; Stonington: Fred Wagner; West Greenwich: Chris Grube, Pat Lardner; Westerly: Jon Ericson, Lauren Barber; Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association: Brett Still and Guest Board President, Alan Desbonnet; Council Coordinator: Kassi Archambault.

Called to Order (Zoom Teleconference): 6:06 PM

Met Lauren Barber, New Westerly alternate rep. Welcome Lauren!
Kudos to Bill for Source to Sea Paddle
Kudos to I & E and Projects Committees for their paddling events

Presentation: Alan Desbonnet, WPWA Board President available for Q&A, provides Board perspective

1. Alan thanks Council for their work
2. Designation is a very big thing. Very important.
3. Alan has been involved with WPWA since 1991. Has a long history with the organization
4. Early major initiative, open watershed for anadromous species
5. Wild and Scenic initiative took 25 years to make happen from concept to approval
6. WPWA working to be a member-supported organization.
7. Has a young, enthusiastic Board now. Focus to build membership
8. WPWA and W&S have strong overlapping missions
9. For Alan, primary personal driver – it is about the watershed
10. WPWA is a membership organization, W&S is not
11. W&S can convene towns (reps)
12. Best to work cooperatively where we overlap, not in silos.
13. Examples working together: Clearing blowdowns, Water Quality work
14. WPWA is in planning neutral with its future plans. Waiting to see how W&S meshes with WPWA
15. Alan described WPWA Board, young demographic, most on Board less than 4 years
16. Q (Dennis): We are not sure where we are just now. Discovering ourselves.
17. Q (Ahren): How has WPWA discussed W&S. ANS: Should be working together. No animosity. Some confusion but that is expected
18. Q (Nan): Areas of overlap? ANS: joint programs with Kassi, Council/Board like paddles, water quality, flood management plan, public access
19. Q (Fred): Why don't we have joint Board (or Officers) meetings every 6 months to communicate. ANS: Alan would like to see this more frequently. Jon adds, can notify each group when meetings are scheduled.
20. Q (Bill): WPWA Board would be scared if whole Council showed up? W&S is struggling with their identity. We are confused how the two can work together. We need to establish our own identity. Need to discuss boundaries. Jon adds that the public is somewhat confused as to which group does what? How do we communicate the roles and missions of each group. ANS: It would be great if the Council could participate in WPWA meetings. WPWA role is to help W&S be successful. Q: If W&S is funding most of the 'core' water quality testing sites, then perhaps WPWA could pick up some additional special interest sites. A: Alan thought it could be done perhaps through special WPWA funding. Bill suggest we consider doing a joint budget discussion on several topics.

21. Q (Ahren): Does WPWA have a strategic plan? ANS: Yes, WPWA has a strategic plan. Is on hold until W&S and WPWA can figure out relationship. Kassi will send Council Strategic Plan.
22. Next WPWA Board meeting third Thursday of September, 6-8pm, virtual and in person at WPWA
23. Overall conclusion – need strong communications

General discussion

1. Know our own boundaries and who we are. Dennis wants to be cautious
2. Nan also expresses concern about finding out who we are
3. Bill reports WPWA WQ committee really good group
4. Nan suggests a MOU. Jon asks if we need a working group
5. Fred – Suggests bylaws committee take on MOU. Will discuss further later. Tabled discussion and will put on the agenda for next month

Secretary's Report: Approval of Minutes of July 22, 2020 meeting

1. Minutes are in the documents folder on the web site. Motion to approve: Fred; 2nd: Dennis. No discussion. Motion approved

Financial Report: Approval of the Monthly Financial Report

1. Year to Date a) Beginning on 01/10/20 and ending 08/06/20 Kassi has worked a total of 650 hours, totaling \$22,750.
2. July 10, 2020 – August 06, 2020 Statement
 - a. Beginning Balance of \$149,386.48, Ending Balance of (\$145,190.54); Expenses: \$3,745.94.
Project Coordinator Hours 07/10/20-08/06/20: \$3,710.00 (106 hours approved by Chair Jon Ericson) and Programs, Events \$35.94
3. Fred moves approval, Ahren seconds. No significant differences from previous months. Motion approved.

Old Business (55 Min)

1. Committee Presentations
 - a. Bylaws (30 min +)
 - i. Discussion and introduce voting ballot on Bylaws.
 - ii. Jon reviewed bylaw changes
 - iii. Short discussion of terms of 1 or 2 years. 1 year less intimidating. Encourages turnover.
 - iv. Short discussion of resignation of officers in writing. Might be best to have a written record.
 - v. Much discussion on Executive Committee. Dennis suggests we grow it. Bill suggests adding representation by other members.
 - vi. Council approves ballot for bylaw changes
 - vii. Final documents live in Dropbox folder
 - b. Advisory (10 min)
 - i. Entertain Motion to Send Advisory Letter: General letter to Hopkinton advising strong buffers along waterways and preservation of contiguous forests when considering siting large alternative energy installations.
 - ii. Kassi received many approvals and the same suggestion from three members. This suggestion has been investigated and is influencing changes to the letter. Updated version will be distributed shortly for a vote via email.
2. Committee Reports (15 min)
 - a. Information and Education
 - i. Council paddle was a big success

- ii. Working on branding with hats. Making great progress
 - iii. Kassi reviewed DEM put-in sign designs.
 - iv. Dennis reviewed putting signs on SK river crossings
 - v. Bill added that SK will create the signs
- b. Executive
- i. Jon reviewed
 - ii. Motion to make Nov meeting on 3rd Wed, Skip Dec meeting: Antonia; 2nd: Fred. Motion passes
 - iii. Wait till Feb on work plan
 - iv. Idea – have town reps describe their towns and rivers at Council meetings. Fred asks about the letters to the Towns
- c. Projects
- i. Nan reported on Public Paddle up the Pawcatuck to Carolina. Was a great success. Good feedback among paddlers. Suggestion – make a map of the paddle and points of interest. Maybe a next paddle in Westerly and Stonington to review boat building history. Consider a lecture series on the watershed. Could be a joint program with WPWA.

New Business (5 Min)

1. Consider Line Item Approval of the following from the Council Budget approved 2/26 for NPS
 - a. Reconsider funding amount for WPWA River Trail Maintenance – Dennis, I & E Committee
 - b. Bill asks if Council could add \$500 to budget for clearing river obstructions. Pete makes the motion; 2nd: Dennis. Motion passes. Kassi will notify Chris
2. Wild & Scenic is In the News!
 - a. Kassi has notified all Council Members via email.
 - b. Bill reviewed Source to Sea paddle. Westerly Sun article was picked up by many local papers.

















































Good of the Order

Action Items

1. Monthly or when applicable, email Jon (jfericson@outlook.com) potential agenda topics, including relevant town/community updates.

Next Meeting: Fourth Wednesday of each month at 6pm. Date is September 23, 2020.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:17 by Ahren; 2nd: Pete. Motion passes.

 PA	P August (me)		
 WW	Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association (Host)		
 JE	Jon Ericson		
 AC	Ahren Cohen		
 d	dennismigneault		
 fw	fred wagner		
 A	AHREN		
 E	Elaine		
 MJ	Madeline Jeffery		
 N	Nan		
 AB	Antonia Bryson		
 BM	Bill McCusker		
 b	bstill		
 cg	christopher grube		
 LB	Lauren Barber		
 P	Patricia S Lardner		



dennismigneault



P August



Jon Ericson



Nan



Wood-Pawcatuck Wate...



Patricia S Lardner



christopher grube



Alan Desbonnet



Elaine



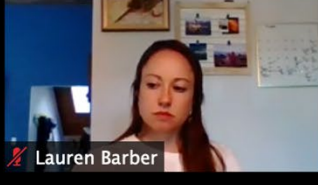
bstill



fred wagner



Madeline Jeffery



Lauren Barber



Bill McCusker



Ahren Cohen



Antonia Bryson

AHREN