

**Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed
Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council
Workshop Agenda**



March 23, 2022, 5 pm to 7 pm

ZOOM Web Conference

Login:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98274392486?pwd=ck5yZXkxZXFUay9jaytUbVlxTWpVQT09>

Password: Steward

Dial-in:

+1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 982 7439 2486

Password: 025264

Call to Order *please keep comments to a minute and succinct so many people can participate in the discussion*

Discussion: Opens debate on how best to utilize the strengths and abilities of our two groups – The WPWA and The Stewardship Council

1. Report from Working Group
2. Record questions, and potentially share Answers

Town/Community Updates

Next Meeting: April 27, 2022, 5-7pm.

Adjourn

Supplemental Information for 3/23/2022 Meeting:

Visit Websites: WPWA.org and WPWildRivers.org

Working Group Members:

Chip Heil, Sara Baker, Nan Quinlan of the Stewardship Council and Jon Waldstein (secretary), Tom Ferrio (treasurer), Alan Desbonnet (vice president), Mike Mowry (president) of the Board.

Although Chris Grube (chair) is not a member, he is available to provide any information needed, feel free to reach out to him.

Focus of Working Group's Initial Meeting on Fri, 3/11:

Begin to address the relationship between WPWA and the Stewardship Council.

Discuss the possibility of having a moderated discussion between both groups with the goal of getting to know others, acknowledging our shared missions, and bringing us together around tangible actions.

Discuss having a meeting with Jamie and Lauren from NPS to learn best practices for both organizations to work together. For instance, working together on the Council's Stewardship Plan.

Initial Q & A

Background Information

- What does WPWA provide to the watershed?
 - o Known as the outspoken voice for the lands and waters and those who care about them. Builds collaboration among local, state and federal partners. Provides residents and elected officials education. Initiated water quality testing in the region and is the hub for water quality monitoring data.
- What is WPWA's structure?
 - o Member and grant funded non-profit, WPWA has a 7-to-12-member Board of Directors, two staff and two consistent contractors (accounting services, GIS and Mapping Services, Water Quality Monitoring Program coordination). The board acts as a "governing board" which means they operate at a 30,000-foot level directing the future of the organization (not on the minutia / detail level).
 - o Has the infrastructure and proven record for handling federal funds to accomplish large projects on budget and on time.
 - o Committees: Water Quality Monitoring; Marketing
- What are WPWA's projects and programs? (Sample listed)
 - o Past Programs: Learn to Fly Fish, Fly Rod Building, Clean Ups, Weekly Lunch Paddles, scientific monitoring (vernal pools, fish populations, invasive species, etc.)
 - o Ongoing Programs: Water Quality Monitoring and providing data on a public platform, River Conditions Reporting, Full Moon Paddles, Member Boat Use, Guided Paddles or Lessons, Environmental Education
 - o Project Leader or Partner: Coordinated earning the Wild and Scenic Designation for the Watershed; Wood-Pawcatuck Flood Resiliency Management Plan; Pawcatuck River Dam Removals; connecting towns to engineering and implementation funds through the Natural Resources Conservation Service PL566
- What does the Stewardship Council provide to the watershed?
 - o A long-standing multi-stakeholder group with eyes and ears across the region, and relationships with elected officials and organizations. Potential project support or grant funding. Community outreach efforts about the Stewardship Council and the Wild and Scenic Rivers.

- What is the Stewardship Council's structure?
 - o Funded by National Park Service, subject to US congressional appropriations. Staff support from the NPS and WPWA. Contracted support on an as-needed basis.
 - o Long standing multistakeholder group to implement the Stewardship Plan: Members appointed at the pleasure of watershed towns, state environmental agencies, Narragansett Indian Tribe, NPS, WPWA, Save the Bay
 - o Working Committees: Information and Education; Projects; Advisory; Bylaws
- What are Stewardship Council projects?
 - o Projects prioritized in 2020/21 and undergoing implementation include: Native Plants Garden, Briggs Park Restoration, Green Fall River Rift Valley Portfolio, Water Trails, 7 Rivers Festival, Youth Adventure Program, 4 Events Highlighting Outstandingly Remarkable Values

Points for Partnering:

- For best utilizing the strengths and abilities of the two, mission-identical, partnering organizations
- WPWA provides Stewardship Council with a campus that groups are envious of! A fleet of boats, a small boat launch, meeting space with river view.
- Stewardship Council and WPWA partner to provide programming:
 - o River Trail Maintenance
 - o Water Quality Monitoring
 - o Youth Adventure Paddles
- How can we tap into the Watershed Association's members who wish to volunteer?
- Co-promote events
- Implementing the Stewardship Plan