

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



May 25, 2022, 5 pm to 7 pm

ZOOM Web Conference

Login:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98274392486?pwd=ck5yZ>

[XkxZXFUay9jaytUbVlxTWpVQT09](#)

Password: Steward

Meeting ID: 982 7439 2486

Dial-in:

+1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 982 7439 2486

Password: 025264

Call to Order *please keep comments brief and on topic so many people can participate in the discussion*

Announcement from the Chair Outcome of Officer Elections

Discussion: Bylaws Revisions

Bylaws and Communications Policy will be up for electronic vote, with 2/3rd majority needed for approval.

Discussion on revisions:

1. 'Blue text' – Express approval or disapproval / constructive criticism.
2. 'Red text' – Come to an agreement on the appropriate path forward for the composition of the Executive Committee / Officers. Consider text in red as an idea, not a recommendation.
3. Questions or comments on the rewritten, simplified Communications Policy.

Discussion: Grant Proposal

The Projects Committee recommends the Stewardship Council reject the application: "The Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island Exceptional Ecosystem Garden Installation." Town Representative advocates for requesting an improved proposal.

Projects Updates:

1. Publicity and Outreach
2. 7 Rivers Festival

Town/Community Updates (6:45 pm)

Next Meeting or Workshop: The fourth Wednesday of every month, June 22, 2022.

Action: Join us! Publicizing Water Trails and Watershed Environmental Resource Maps at WPWA Annual Meeting, Thursday 5/26, 6pm at Malted Barley in Westerly

Adjourn

Supplemental Information linked for 5/25/2022:

1. Bylaws

- a. Draft is [linked here](#)
- b. Current is [linked here](#)

2. Communications Policy

- a. Draft is [linked here](#)
- b. Current is [linked here](#)

3. **GRANT PROPOSAL**

The Wildlife Clinic of Rhode Island Exceptional Ecosystem Garden Installation

The Projects Committee has voted to recommend to the Stewardship Council not fund the proposal for the following reasons:

- stretch to align with Exceptional Ecosystems Outstandingly Remarkable Value
- budget is unrealistic, in terms of pricing, and overall cost exceeds grant limit
- design of garden and rain barrel seemed flawed

N Kingstown Town Representative, Ahren Cohen, advocates support for the proposal:

- ORV's: we can't claim any direct connection with water, but there are benefits regarding Cultural, Protection of land and Education
- PARTNERS: Nearly 25,000 social media and email contacts; large volunteer cadre, towns which utilize WRA's network to handle rehabs, many of which are in the watershed. Their partners have significant sources of funding. LAND PROTECTION & PRESERVATION: project will buffer the clear-cut land which will become a vineyard and preserve wildlife habitat

Application Excerpts:

Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode Island (WRARI) is committed to fostering an understanding and respect for all Rhode Island Wildlife, through education and practical assistance with wildlife issues. WRARI also strives to provide quality and humane care to injured and orphaned wildlife, with the goal of release back into the environment.

WRARI offers educational programs to schools and civic organizations on assisting injured and orphaned wildlife and peacefully co-existing with urban wildlife in the face of decreasing open space. 75% of all animal species found in RI occur within this watershed. We recognize the significance of your work as many of our 6,000 intakes call the 110 river miles within this watershed home.

We are the only wildlife organization within the state of Rhode Island licensed by DEM and USFW, to provide direct care to all species. In 2021, we assisted approximately 6,000 wild animals (183 species) not including the cases that go to our network of in-home rehabilitators across the state for continued care.

The benefits of your funding:

- Reducing the amount of rainwater from storms that runs off the roof of the Clinic and pools over entrance driveway, picking up sediment and possible pollutants from vehicles and making it difficult for community members, DEM and Animal Control Officers to enter the building for animal intake. Provide a welcoming entrance to the Wildlife Clinic and model the use of green infrastructure critical to the survival of the animals we treat
- Replenish habit loss due to adjacent fragmentation on our property border (100 acres; future site of Hollow Ridge Vineyard and Winery 2845 Tower Hill Road – north side of property)

- Build a rain garden for a healthier and happier landscape in addition to its bioretention properties and where the water gradually percolates through the soil and recharges the groundwater
- Utilize native plants to create essential habitat for beneficial animals and insects and being sure to monitor the garden for invasive species.
- Attract local pollinators which in turn helps the natural food chain and local agriculture.
- Apply best practices to other areas of the Wildlife Clinic property to grow the ecosystem
- Tapping into our 11,500 Facebook followers, 9,500 Constant Contact subscribers and over 2,500 Instagrammers on a collective scale, could make a big difference in setting the stage for action and change. We will be able to broadcast and share various stages of the installation with our volunteer network, and incorporate eco-friendly updates in our e-newsletter and social media feeds.

Full Grant application [linked here](#)
