

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



June 22, 2022, 5 pm to 7 pm

ZOOM Web Conference

Login:

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

[XkxZXFUay9jaytUbVlxTWpVQQT09](#)

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*

Secretary's Report: Approval of Minutes of April 27, 2022 meeting

Financial Report: Approval of the Monthly Financial Report

Bylaws Committee - Communications Policy Revisions:

Consider approving the revised, simplified Communications Policy. 2/3rd majority needed for approval.

Projects Committee – Grant Proposal Recommendations:

The Projects Committee does not recommend funding the Yawgoo Pond Trail Boardwalk grant request submitted by the South Kingstown Land Trust. The Town Representative advocates for approving the grant request.

Committee and Project Updates (6:15 pm):

7 Rivers Festival June 25th and 26th

Tabling Opportunities in Westerly

Town/Community Updates (6:30 pm)

Next Meeting or Workshop: The fourth Wednesday of every month, July 27, 2022.

Adjourn

Supplemental Information for 6/22/2022 Meeting:

1. Financial Report
2. Communications Policy
3. Grant Proposal

1. Financial Report

- Budget year to date beginning on 07/08/2021 and ending 05/12/2022 Kassi has worked a total of 948.25 hours, totaling \$38,598.75
- 4/29 – 5/24 Statement:

Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association NPS Wild & Scenic Grant Drawdown Request Date 5/24/2022 Inv 2022-1030											
		Total Budget	Revised Hours	Previously Billed		This Billing		Total Billed		Remaining	
				Hours	Total	Hours From	Hours To	Hours	Total	Hours	Total
		Revised Budget				4/29/2022	5/12/2022				
1	Staffing, Outsourcing & Interns										
	a Outreach Publications & Communicat	25,309.00			12,232.71				12,232.71		13,076.29
	b Website Maintenance	4,450.00			990.97				990.97		3,459.03
	c Coordinator (2,294 hours @ \$35/hr)	80,290.00	2,294.00	1,711.00	67,917.50	58.00	2,030.00	1,769.00	69,947.50	525.00	10,342.50
	d GIS & Mapping Service	8,592.00			4,852.00				4,852.00		3,740.00
	e Expert Consultant	22,058.00			525.00		-		525.00		21,533.00
	f Interns	-			-				-		-
2	Programs										
	a Enhancement Projects	85,154.00			18,203.69		4,950.00		23,153.69		62,000.31
	b Events (ex public paddles)	22,980.00			6,600.82				6,600.82		16,379.18
	c River Trail Maintenance	5,000.00			2,802.14				2,802.14		2,197.86
	d Update Blueways River Maps	-			-				-		-
	e Water Quality Monitoring	7,000.00			7,000.00				7,000.00		-
	f Youth Adventure Program	12,000.00			6,423.00				6,423.00		5,577.00
4	Miscellaneous Costs										
	a Directors and Officers Insurance	2,600.00			2,500.00				2,500.00		100.00
	b Mileage	2,724.00			554.49				554.49		2,169.51
	c Supplies	3,207.00			2,210.21				2,210.21		996.79
	d Workshop Attendance	5,000.00			740.00				740.00		4,260.00
5	Total Direct Costs	286,364.00	2,294.00	1,711.00	133,552.53	58.00	6,980.00	1,769.00	140,532.53	525.00	145,831.47
6	Indirect and Accounting	28,636.00			23,863.00				23,863.00		4,773.00
	TOTAL	315,000.00	2,294.00	1,711.00	157,415.53	58.00	6,980.00	1,769.00	164,395.53	525.00	150,604.47

2. Communications Policy

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

3. GRANT PROPOSAL

Yawgoo Pond Trail Boardwalk submitted by the South Kingstown Land Trust

The Projects Committee does not recommend funding. This is a complex, expensive, long-term project that is in its very early stages.

The likelihood of success of this project could be better determined if:

1. RI DEM freshwater wetland permits were already issued. These permits are not guaranteed. The committee does not recommend funding projects that do not already have the required permits.
2. More funding was in place. To date, only a small portion of the \$250,000 cost has been raised.

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

- This is a complex, expensive, long-term project that is in its very early stages.
- The likelihood of success of this project could be better determined if:
 - RI DEM freshwater wetland permits were already issued. These permits are not guaranteed. The committee does not recommend funding projects that do not already have the required permits.
 - More funding was in place. To date, only a small portion of the \$250,000 cost has been raised.

S Kingstown Town Representative, Dennis Migneault, advocates funding the SKLT \$4,000 for base map survey (valued at \$4,200):

South Kingstown Land Trust is one of the most dynamic organizations in protecting the natural spaces in southern Rhode Island. It currently has 2000 acres in SK under protection. It is very successful at fundraising and public relations. It recently raised \$1M for various purposes including a new office building and an equipment building. It owns and uses Hale House for public functions. It allowed the I&E Committee to use Hale House for an evening to demonstrate outreach activities. The SKLT is active in offering walks, presentations, and dinners.

SKLT has lost access to the environmentally spectacular area at Yawgoo Pond due to a land purchase which included the access trail. Public access to these areas is mandatory due to the legal terms of the land acquisition. SKLT must put in a new access. Unfortunately, this new access has to go over wetlands. An elevated walkway must be built which adds significant cost to the project. SKLT has a proven record of raising significant capital.

Early on, I (the SK town representative to the council) met with representatives from SKLT to put together a grant request to the WPWSRC to help with this walkway. Even though the amount of the grant would be small in comparison to the total project, it was felt that to have our Council be part of this project would help in a number of ways. To have our Council on the list of donors would make it easier to reach out to other potential sources of funding. Our name is well known because of our activities throughout the watershed and we can be most effective if we are one of the early donors. The Council's grant to the Circus Lot was the initial funding for that special project. Others have offered to help this project. We need to be on that list.

In reviewing their application, they are very experienced in this type of activity and they have selected the best organizations to partner with. They are working with DEM supervising biologists for wetlands on the elevated walkway. This will be a first class structure which should have no problems moving forward. I know of a few elevated walkways around the country and they give the public a different perspective of the wetlands involved. I used to love walking on the boardwalk over the Great Swamp Impoundment.

There are many reasons to join with the SKLT for this project. It is a win for the public, for the land trust, the Council, and finally the wildlife.

I ask for your support for this project in South Kingstown.

Thank you,

Dennis

Application Excerpts:

This complete project is very complex and has many costs. SKLT requests \$4,000 from Wood- Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council (WPSRSC) to assist with the planning and engineering phase of the project.

SKLT will leverage the support of WPSRSC to apply for other local and state grants including the Champlin Foundation and RI DEM's Recreational Trails Program. We have a demonstrated history of success in receiving grants from both entities.

Since opening around 2007, the Yawgoo Pond Trail has been very popular for hikers and naturalists, featured prominently in SKLT's Trail Guide and on websites such as All Trails and RI Walks. SKLT frequently led guided walks free and open to the public and for our members here in the past. A map is accessible on the SKLT website here: <https://sklt.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Yawgoo-9.2020.pdf>.

Unfortunately, the trail was developed without GPS verification of the property line and to avoid the wetlands, portions of the original trail cross on and off the abutting parcel. The abutting parcel has recently changed hands and the new owner is developing it as house lots and is not interested in conveying a trail easement for the existing trail. Much to the sorrow of many neighbors and community members, the Trail has been closed to the public since February 2021.

There is a singular point for public access off Barbers Pond Road which limits trail design options. To maintain public access with the least amount of disturbance, the Land Trust must reroute approximately 850' of trail into a wetland shrub swamp. Consistent with our goals as an Accredited Land Trust, best management practices will be utilized by SKLT with freshwater wetlands permitting by RI DEM and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to protect sensitive wetland plants, soils, and the water quality of the adjacent Mud Brook, a tributary to the Chickasheen. Approximately 700' of the Trail will have to be constructed as an elevated 4' wide pedestrian boardwalk due to the standing water swamp conditions. SKLT had initial consultations with RI DEM's Freshwater Wetlands program to discuss our project, leading to us hiring Applied Bio-Systems (ABS), an experienced wetlands consultant, to delineate the wetlands on the Premises and assist with the Freshwater Wetlands permitting. ABS will be taking the lead on developing the minimization requirements necessary for protecting the wetlands and successfully permitting the project.

The new elevated trail will allow visitors to traverse the edge of the wetland observing wetland species without disturbing the hydrology, soils, or plants. Visitors will be able to appreciate the exceptional aesthetics of a pristine wetland while leaving the 5-acre core of the wetlands undisturbed, providing a unique recreational experience. Like recently completed projects in Little Compton and Richmond, RI the boardwalk trail will be installed on galvanized steel helical piles which are renowned by trails experts for their stability and low environmental impact. Please see attached map of proposed new trail route

Full Grant application [linked here](#)
