

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



August 24, 2022, 5 pm to 7 pm

ZOOM Web Conference

Login:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98274392486?pwd=ck5yZkxkZXFUay9jaytUbVlxTWpVQT09>

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Dial-in:

+1 929 205 6099

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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 June 22, 2022 meeting

Financial Report: Approval of the Bi-Monthly Financial Report. Update on NPS Award: WPWA entered into a Cooperative Agreement with NPS for the Stewardship Council, with an 8/1/22 start date. This Results in the Coordinator at 1.0 FTE and \$41,000 additional funds allocated for grants and internal projects. NPS Approved budget included below.

Project Update and Request

Entertain a motion to fully fund Water Trails Project's design and permitting. \$15,387 available, \$16,613 additionally requested from Stewardship Council. May also consider going out to bid for one or both sites, with a tight timeline.

Projects Committee – Grant Proposal Recommendations:

Entertain a motion to accept the Projects Committee recommendation to not fund the Yawgoo Pond Trail Boardwalk grant request submitted by the South Kingstown Land Trust.

Committee and Project Updates (6:15 pm):

Youth Adventure Program

Town/Community Updates (6:30 pm)

Next Meeting or Workshop: The fourth Wednesday of every month, September 28, 2022 at Hewitt Farm, North Stonington. In-person only.

Adjourn

Supplemental Information for 8/24/2022 Meeting:

1. Financial Report
2. NPS Approved 2022-2023 Budget
3. Water Trails update and proposal
4. Grant Recommendation and Details

1. Financial Report

- Budget year to date beginning on 07/08/2021 and ending 08/04/2022 Kassi has worked a total of 1,546 hours, totaling \$48,215.33
- The new budget year for tracking Coordinator time will begin on 08/05.
- 7/22 – 8/16 Statement:

| Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| NPS Wild & Scenic Grant Drawdown Request | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Date 8/16/2022 Inv 2022-1048 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Budget | | Previously Billed | | This Billing | | Total Billed | | Remaining | |
| | | | Total Budget | Total Hours | Hours | Total | Hours From | Hours To | Hours | Total | Hours | Total |
| | | | | | | | 7/22/2022 | 8/4/2022 | | | | |
| 1 Staffing, Outsourcing & Interns | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | a | Outreach Publications & Communications | 44,909.00 | | | 14,656.71 | | | | 14,656.71 | | 30,252.29 |
| | b | Website Maintenance | 4,450.00 | | | 1,373.75 | | 21.39 | | 1,395.14 | | 3,054.86 |
| | c | Coordinator (3,020 hours @ \$37.47/hr) | 148,480.00 | 4,114.00 | 2,369.75 | 80,572.79 | 39.00 | 1,461.33 | 2,408.75 | 82,034.12 | 1,705.25 | 66,445.88 |
| | d | GIS & Mapping Service | 10,392.00 | | | 4,852.00 | | | | 4,852.00 | | 5,540.00 |
| | e | Expert Consultant | 39,058.00 | | | 3,773.70 | | 1,006.80 | | 4,780.50 | | 34,277.50 |
| | f | Interns | 3,000.00 | | | - | | | | - | | 3,000.00 |
| 2 Programs | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | a | Enhancement Projects | 132,708.00 | | | 39,208.40 | | | | 39,208.40 | | 93,499.60 |
| | b | Events (ex public paddles) | 41,480.00 | | | 14,422.07 | | | | 14,422.07 | | 27,057.93 |
| | c | River Trail Maintenance | 5,000.00 | | | 5,000.00 | | | | 5,000.00 | | - |
| | e | Water Quality Monitoring | 14,500.00 | | | 7,000.00 | | | | 7,000.00 | | 7,500.00 |
| | f | Youth Adventure Program | 12,846.00 | | | 6,423.00 | | | | 6,423.00 | | 6,423.00 |
| 4 Miscellaneous Costs | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | a | Directors and Officers Insurance | 5,650.00 | | | 2,500.00 | | | | 2,500.00 | | 3,150.00 |
| | b | Mileage | 2,724.00 | | | 1,346.71 | | | | 1,346.71 | | 1,377.29 |
| | c | Supplies | 7,167.00 | | | 2,550.74 | | | | 2,550.74 | | 4,616.26 |
| | d | Workshop Attendance | 5,000.00 | | | 770.90 | | 70.00 | | 840.90 | | 4,159.10 |
| 5 | Total Direct Costs | | 477,364.00 | 4,114.00 | 2,369.75 | 184,450.77 | 39.00 | 2,559.52 | 2,408.75 | 187,010.29 | 1,705.25 | 290,353.71 |
| 6 | Indirect and Accounting | | 47,636.00 | | | 27,272.00 | | | | 27,272.00 | | 20,364.00 |
| | TOTAL | | 525,000.00 | 4,114.00 | 2,369.75 | 211,722.77 | 39.00 | 2,559.52 | 2,408.75 | 214,282.29 | 1,705.25 | 310,717.71 |

2. NPS Approved 2022-2023 Budget (next page)

| | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Wood-Pawcatuck | | | | | |
| Budget 424A | | | | | |
| 2022-23 | | | | | |
| Commencing August 1 2022; most items expected to be completed within 1 year time frame but certain contractual items may take longer; the goal is to issue all contracts within 1 year timeframe. | | | | | |
| Purchases can comply with Build America, Buy America requirements. | | | | | |
| *All carryover is explained in the FFR narrative | | | | | |
| | | | Total NPS Request | 424A Categories | 424A Notes |
| 1 Staffing, Outsourcing & Interns | | | | | |
| | a | Outreach Publications & Communications | 19,600.00 | Contractual | Purchase of river name and wild and scenic signs for roads and public access sites (7,300); Development of printed media articles for local press by a writer and press relations consultant (6,000); Outreach and education, including advertising events (4,300); Promotional and Printed Materials (2,000). |
| | b | Website Maintenance | - | Contractual | * Annual contract for Wild and scenic website maintenance and hosting needs will be met with carryover funds |
| | c | Coordinator (1.0 FTE @ \$37.47/hr) | 68,190.00 | Personnel | Salary for Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinator 35 hrs/wk @\$37.47/hr. Role is to coordinate the WSR management council, programs and projects. Responsibilities are to oversee and implement the management plan and work plans. |
| | d | GIS & Mapping Service | 1,800.00 | Contractual | Compensate a consultant to provide these services, such as updating the watershed environmental resource map, and provide maps for advising town leadership on potential enhancement or development projects. |
| | e | Expert Consultant | 17,000.00 | Contractual | Compensate an environmental planning firm to provide draft and support towns adopt resource protection and enhancement ordinances (e.g. River Corridor Overlay District, Low Impact Development). RCOD Phase 1 (model ordinance) & Phase 2 (westerly/town specific ordinances); LID Phase 1 (municipal ordinance assessment) & Phase 2 (town specific ordinances) ; Environmental planning firm staff at average \$165 per hour will perform 103 hours. |
| | f | Interns | 3,000.00 | Contractual | Compensate graduate student assistantship through the University of Rhode Island's Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials program for Low Impact Development Phase 1 municipal self-assessments. Will complete assessment forms, provide draft to Town Planner and present to planning boards or commissions. \$18/hr, 166 hours. |
| 2 Programs | | | - | | |
| | a | Enhancement Projects | 47,554.00 | Contractual | Wild and Scenic River Management Plan Implementation Grants for internal programs and for partners to implement the management plan. Grants recipient must either supply proof of payment for reimbursement with the grant application, or sign a memorandum of agreement which follows NPS & Stewardship Council guidelines. \$4,000 per grant award. |
| | b | Events (ex public paddles) | 18,500.00 | Contractual | Contract with a Public Relations or Event Planning professional to plan and coordinate the for Signature Wild and Scenic Event, the 7 Rivers Festival. In 2022 over 30 events took place across 12 towns during 1 weekend. A similar model to be implemented in 2023. Professional at \$30/hr, 20 hours a week, 26 weeks from January to June (15,700). Separately, organizations will be compensated to lead hikes, paddles and presentations throughout the year (2,800). |
| | c | River Trail Maintenance | - | Contractual | * 2022-2023 activities will be covered by carryover funds. High water levels last season. Clear blowdowns, hazards, and obstructions in popular paddling sections of the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers. |
| | e | Water Quality Monitoring | 7,500.00 | Contractual | Water Quality Monitoring Data for each of the designated rivers to be collected, processed and then publicly published. |
| | f | Youth Adventure Program | 846.00 | Contractual | * Carryover funds will help meet the needs of this program (5,577 carryover + 846 of new funding = 6,423). Will organize 5 youth kayak trips on the Wood River, including volunteer recruitment and training sessions (4,158); four watershed science lessons (1,680); printing flyers for youth to bring home (85); and busses to transport youth to river site (500). |
| 4 Miscellaneous Costs | | | | | |
| | a | Insurance | 3,050.00 | Other | Cost for events, Wild and Scenic meeting, storage and office space to be covered by Auto, General Commercial Liability, Flood Insurance and Directors and Officers Insurance. |
| | b | Mileage | - | Travel | * Carryover funding provides the Coordinator travel of 1,450 miles @56c/mile federal rate. |
| | c | Supplies | 3,960.00 | Supplies | Office supplies (e.g., office equipment, repairs and maintenance (2,250); office expense, conference line, internet based document storage and sharing (1,400); paper, toner, chart paper, postage and shipping (310).) |
| 5 Total Direct Costs | | | 191,000.00 | | |
| 6 Indirect and Accounting | | | 19,000.00 | | |
| TOTAL | | | 210,000.00 | | |

3. **WATER TRAILS PROJECT UPDATE AND PROPOSAL**

Summary – Created paddling maps of rivers and ponds, then published them for the community. The “Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Water Trails” has been advertised and is available on wpwildrivers.org. The second goal is to improve public access sites. Both sites identified have significant erosion problems for the Wood River. The “Step Stone Falls” site continually suffers from road and parking area washout. Site visits with the engineering firm Cherenzia identified a wetland is being filled in with road and parking washout. The “Switch Road Access” site has a wheel chair access that slopes into the water.

Current Stage – Kassi has received proposals from Cherenzia & Associates Ltd to complete the design and permitting phase for the two public access sites. The ticket price of 32,000 (14,500 for Switch Rd + 17,500 for Step Stone) is above the budgeted amount of 15,387.

Financial Considerations –

- a. NPS allocated an additional \$41K to our Projects and Grants. This is above what the Stewardship Council budgeted for in the winter.
- b. Funding Water Trails in full (additional \$16,613) does not take away from any ongoing projects or committees.
- c. Cherenzia has documentation for Switch Road Access because of their previous work there. They likely would have the lowest bid for this site.

Next Step Considerations –

- a. Contract with Cherenzia to do Switch Road Access, since they have design plans for the site already. Solicit bids for Step Stone.
- b. Contract with Cherenzia to both, so that one company is working with the Coordinator, the property owner RIDEM, and the abutters RIDOT and the Town of West Greenwich.
- c. Solicit bids from engineering firms for one or both sites, and aim for design and permitting to be completed and billed for before the last quarter of this fiscal year.

4. **GRANT RECOMMENDATION AND DETAILS**

Yawgoo Pond Trail Boardwalk submitted by the South Kingstown Land Trust

Basic facts:

1. The boardwalk will span a section of wetlands and requires a wetland permit which they do not have
2. SKLT is requesting \$4,000 for a basemap which is a required element of the DEM Freshwater Wetlands Permitting Application
3. The entire project is estimated to cost \$250,000
4. To the date of the application, they have raised \$30,000

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

1. Likelihood of success of this project is unknown. This is very early in a complex, expensive, multi-year project and a RIDEM freshwater wetlands permit has not yet been issued. These permits are not guaranteed.
2. \$4,000 for a basemap is a minute portion of the entire \$250,000 project budget. SKLT has already raised \$30,000 - more than enough money to cover the cost of the basemap

- they are requesting. They are able to advance this project without our funds.
3. In their application the SKLT stated that they will ‘leverage the support of the W&S Council project grant to apply for other local and state grants’. We do not feel that our project monies should be used for fundraising purposes.

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](#)
