

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

**Draft Minutes  
Meeting held on February 22, 2023**

In Attendance: Exeter: Nan Quinlan; North Kingston: Ahren Cohen; North Stonington: Elaine Calderone, Madeline Jeffery; Richmond: Antonia Bryson, Pete August; Charlestown, Bob Maietta; Stonington: Fred Wagner; West Greenwich: Chris Grube, Pat Lardner; STB: Catie Alves; WPWA: Andrew McNulty; DEEP: Eric Thomas; NPS: Lauren Bonatakis, and guest Jackie Dias; Kassi Donnelly, Coordinator.

Call to Order: 6:01 PM. Quorum met.

Dr. Catie Alves from Save the Bay was welcomed and introductions made.

Secretary's Report of Minutes of December 14, 2022. Motion to approve made by Elaine Calderone, second by Madeline Jeffrey. There was no discussion. Approved unanimously.

Financial Report:

1. Bi-Monthly Financial Report made by Peter August. Motion to approve made by Elaine Calderone, second by Eric Thomas. Bob Maietta requested that hardcopy of meeting materials be made available in future meetings. Financial report unanimously approved.
2. Presentation of NPS budget request made by Kassi Donnelly. Motion to approve made by Ahren Cohen, second by Fred Wagner.
  - a. Question – have grants been increased to \$12K? Kassi explained NPS suggested putting in a range (e.g., \$4K - \$12K) so larger awards could be given if the Council chose to do so.
  - b. Question - are all anticipated expenses fully funded for next FY? Yes they are.
  - c. NPS budget approved unanimously.

Projects Committee – Grant Program:

1. Proposal recommended for funding
  - a. The Town of Richmond, and its Conservation Commission for signage about Beaver River, ORVs and Grasslands. Proposal presented by Eric Thomas. Motion to approve made by Peter August, second by Bob Maeitta, approved unanimously.
  - b. Charlestown Land Trust for a Conservation Easement. Proposal presented by Eric Thomas. Motion to approve made by Ahren Cohen, second by Andrew McNulty, approved unanimously.
  - c. The Narragansett Chapter of the AMC, for a kiosk in Charlestown about Narragansett Trail & ORVs. Proposal presented by Madeline Jeffrey. Motion to approve made by Nan Quinlan, second by Bob Maietta, approved unanimously.
  - d. Westerly Land Trust for water monitoring. Proposal presented by Madeline Jeffrey. Motion to approve made by Bob Maietta, second by Catie Alves, approved unanimously.

- e. Peter Stetson dba Educational Mapping Service to offer all watershed teachers Professional Development in GIS. Proposal presented by Nan Quinlan. Motion to approve made by Pete August, second by Catie Alves, approved unanimously.
  - f. North Stonington Sustainability Committee for Youth Education & Field Experience. Proposal presented by Nan Quinlan. Motion to approve made by Bob Maietta, second by Pat Lardner, approved unanimously.
  - g. Hopkinton Land Trust for Riparian Plantings and Invasive Management. Proposal presented by Andrew McNulty. Motion to approve made by Bob Maietta, second by Fred Wagner, approved unanimously.
  - h. The Town of Richmond, and its Conservation Commission for Invasive Plant Management. Proposal presented by Andrew McNulty. Motion to approve made by Bob Maietta, second by Ahren Cohen, approved unanimously.
2. Proposals not selected for funding: Presented by Elaine Calderone
    - a. Exeter Public Library for a Native Plant Garden. Proposal lacked specific details. No clear benefit to rivers or streams.
    - b. RI Dept of Environmental Management for a conservation and patrol e-bike. Benefit to watershed unclear.
    - c. North Stonington Conservation Commission for an Accessible Trail. Not clear funding will be available to complete the project.

#### Executive Committee

1. Update on Facilitation Scope of work.
  - a. Seek bids from local vendors (Follow the Procurement Policy)
  - b. Include full Council in initial meet and greet
  - c. Consider a full council meeting prior to starting process to discuss key questions
  - d. The Facilitation team will bring bid proposals and recommendations to the Council for approval.
  - e. Motion to approve by Fred Wagner, second by Ahren Cohen, approved unanimously.
2. Job Description for temporary contract coordinator.
  - a. Everyone has a copy of the most current version. Get written comments in by Sunday evening.

#### Good of the Order

Fred Wagner presented the opportunity to write a letter of support for further work on the Circus Lot project in Stonington. The letter will be reviewed by the Advisory Committee and a vote to approve will be done via electronic / email.

Motion to Adjourn by Bob Maietta, second by Nan Quinlan, approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM

Next Meeting or Workshop: Wednesday, March 22, 2023