



**Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed
Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council
Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)**

*Wednesday, October 16, 2024
Westerly Land Trust,
449 Westerly Bradford Rd, Westerly, RI 02891*

Abbreviations: Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council (WPWSRSC or Council), Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), National Park Service (NPS), Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM), Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association (WPWA), Save The Bay (STB), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Westerly Land Trust (WLT), Information and Education (I&E), Ocean State Climate Adaptation and Resilience (OSCAR) Fund Grant, Mainstreet Resiliency Projects (MRP)

Attendance:

Justin Andrade, Charlestown, RI
Robert J Maietta, Charlestown, RI (I&E Committee Co-chair)
Sharon MacLean, Exeter, RI (I&E Committee)
Nan Quinlan, Exeter, RI (Projects Committee)
Harvey Buford, Hopkinton, RI
Ahren Cohen, North Kingstown, RI (Council Treasurer)
Madeline Jeffery, North Stonington, CT (Projects Committee, I&E Committee Co-chair)
Elaine Caldarone, North Stonington, CT (Council Vice Chair, Projects Committee Chair, I&E Committee)
Antonia Bryson, Richmond, RI (Council Chair, Advisory Committee Co-chair)
Denise Poyer, Richmond, RI (Council Secretary)
Fred Wagner, Stonington, CT (Advisory Committee)
Tom Halavik, South Kingstown, RI (Projects Committee)
William Gay, Voluntown, CT
Harvey Perry, The Nature Conservancy (TNC, Advisory Committee)
Scott Farley, Applicant for Representative of Town of Westerly
Fred Sculco, Westerly Resident (Advisory Committee)
Christopher Grube, West Greenwich, RI (Council Chair, Advisory Committee Co-chair)
Lauren Bonatakis, National Parks Service (NPS)
Corey Pelletier, RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM, Projects Committee)
Catie Alves, Ph.D, Save The Bay (STB)
Chris Fox, Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
Marc Doherty, Westerly Land Trust
Ali Gretchner, South Kingstown (I&E Committee)

Katie DeGoosh Dimargio, RI DEM guest speaker 401-537-4217

Meeting Convened at: 5:02 pm

Secretary's Report: Minutes of September 24th, 2024 meeting approved.

Speaker: Katie DeGoosh, RI DEM, gave a presentation on Hydrilla status in Worden Pond. It was suggested that the Council discuss how they can get involved with treatment and control of this invasive. The topic will be taken up by the executive committee for possible inclusion in future agendas.

Treasurer Quarterly Report: See attached.

Committee Updates:

1. Executive Committee (Antonia Bryson, Richmond)
 - a. Town Council/Planning Board/Commission outreach
 - i. Suggestion made to have two towns report on what's going on in their towns per month (so each town would report twice a year). The council agreed to try this format.
 - b. PWSR: Questions from the Council for Oct 21-23 Gathering
 - i. How do they prioritize action plans in the Stewardship Plans?
2. Projects Committee (Elaine Caldarone, North Stonington)
 - a. Call for Community Grants was released and the closing date is the end of December.
3. Advisory Committee (Chris Grube, West Greenwich)
 - a. Community Support Program Presentation (Fred Sculco, Harvey Perry) (see attachment)
 - i. Fred and Harvey were asked to develop more of a scope of work to identify tasks and who would be responsible.
 - ii. A potential Phase One of the program would be to have Scott Millar reach out to towns to assess needs.
 - iii. Scott Millar will be invited to the next Council meeting to answer questions.
 - iv. Council will need to identify funding from the current budget and vote to move money in the budget if necessary.
4. Information & Education Committee (Madeline Jeffery, North Stonington & Bob Maietta, Charlestown)
 - a. Decision made to send advance I&E Agendas to all Council members. If council members see anything they would like to participate in please reach out to the committee.
 - b. Bob M: to order W&S embroidered vests, jackets, other for events and members
 - c. Casey will prepare Winter Dragonfly Express for January '25. Search for articles, illustrations.
 - d. Madeline & Elaine: NS "State of the Town", a table, October 28 Wheeler High School, 6pm.
 - e. Elaine: DEEP Program, "Invasive Aquatic Plant Workshop", planning for March, in NS
 - f. Casey: Next podcast is "Bats," in the works.
 - g. Madeline: River Friends, a grassroots project
 - h. Casey: pilot program for "Hiker Safety Education" which will involve providing orange vests

Ideas for 2025-2026 Work Plan:

1. Katie proposed an initiative to have a rain garden installed in public spaces for each town. Possibly pick two communities each year for this. Other ideas would be to have a training session for town reps to work with their communities to develop the rain gardens. Providing maintenance costs was mentioned.
2. From last meeting
 - a. Fourth Grader Education program
 - b. River front land owners' information program

Working Group Updates:

1. Kenyon Mills Working Group (Denise Poyer, Richmond)
2. Wild Brook Trout Working Group (Bob Maietta, Charlestown)
 - a. First meeting will be next Wed at WPWA headquarters

Partner Updates:

1. CT DEEP: no report
2. NPS: Partners gathering in VT.
3. RI DEM:
 - a. Continuing to work on stream connectivity.
 - b. Up dating 2025 State Wildlife Report
 - c. Forwarding information concerning Beaver River illegal clearing to Freshwater Wetlands Regulations.
4. Save the Bay:
 - a. International Coastal cleanups at Charlestown Beach this weekend.
 - b. Richmond was awarded \$170,000 from Climate Resilience Fund
 - c. Hopkinton awarded two grants for stormwater management projects
 - d. Westerly Town Council meeting re: Potter Hill Mill dam is now on Oct. 28
5. Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association: no new report
6. The Nature Conservancy: no new report
7. Westerly Land Trust:
 - a. Supporting hunter safety education
 - b. Will publicize Council grants program
 - c. Working on GIS maps

Town Representative Updates:

Charlestown will have a meeting about the breachway next Tuesday.

Good of the Order: none

Public Comment: none

Next Meeting: 5pm-7pm, November 20, 2024

Adjourn: 6:55 pm

Attachments:

1. Treasurer's Quarterly Report
2. WPWA Tree Removal Report
3. September 25th Minutes
4. Community Support Program proposal