

WPWA Board Meeting minutes — June 21, 2019

Present: Alan Desbonnet, Joe MacAndrew, Donna Walsh, Tom Ferrio, Matt Dowling, Ian Willets, Jack Cross (guest), and Chris Fox (ED)

The meeting was called to order 6:05PM; Desbonnet was Acting Secretary

1. A motion was made by Tom Ferrio to accept the minutes of the April 19 meeting, amended such that item 7 was reordered as item 6c. Donna Walsh provided a second to the motion, which was unanimously approved.
2. A motion was made by Tom Ferrio to accept the minutes of the May 17 annual meeting as presented. Donna Walsh provided a second to the motion, which was unanimously approved.
3. Election of Officers—A slate of officers was presented: Alan Desbonnet—President; Ian Willets—Vice President; Tom Ferrio—Treasurer; Brenda Rashleigh—Secretary. Donna Walsh made a motion to accept the slate of officers, as presented. Tom Ferrio provided a second, which was unanimously approved. Matt Dowling agree to “shadow” the Treasurer and learn that aspect of organization functions. Chris will send the required paperwork to the state regarding election of officers.
4. Budget Update—About \$26,000 currently resides in “liquid cash” accounts and should hold out over the next couple of months. There may be the need to move cash in late summer. It was noted that approximately \$50,000 was moved from “cash” into investments earlier in the year upon receipt of annual appeal funds and Lattner grant.
5. Executive Director Report—Chris reported that the membership drive is about half-way to that projected in the budget, and he feels confident that can be met provided the business membership initiative attains its goal of 10 business members. Donations are slightly higher than usual for this time of year, which of course is a positive trend (25% of budgeted amount secured already). Member paddles and other outdoor programs will be offered as last year, with a “72-hour weather window” to avoid having to cancel and reschedule incessantly; this strategy has proven more efficient over the last 2 years. Chris reported that past board member Dick Holiday noted that Rob Saglio, a Westerly resident, is interested in WPWA and perhaps in board or volunteer service. Chris made initial phone contact followed by providing a gratis Trout membership to Rob. Alan agreed to follow up, as appropriate, once Chris provides contact info.
6. Business Membership Initiative—Alan noted he had a window of opportunity to put some dedicated time in this initiative through end of July and will meet with Ian (and others interested) to set up a plan for contacting and meeting with targeted businesses during that window. The Maltd Barley has expressed in renewing, and Alan will contact Gerry Cunningham about renewing; Chris will handle Fuss & O’Neil and Grey Sail has already renewed. Recently printed Business Membership solicitation brochures were made available to all board members.
7. Water Quality Task Force—Alan presented a charge for the task force, and reported he spoke with Brenda, who is willing to bring the group together and get things started. Joe expressed interest in serving, Matt noted that Steve McCandless, though unable to serve on the board, would be willing to serve on a water quality group such as this; Matt also noted his interest. Alan will contact Linda Green to see if she will be willing to serve on the group, and Alan and Chris will meet with Elise Torello to determine how best to engage her.
 - a. Donna Walsh made a motion to create a Water Quality Task Force, with the charge for action as follows:

- i. Duties—1) Develop a 3-year strategic plan for sustainable water quality monitoring that will be carried out by WPWA which may include: Interaction with URI Watershed Watch, Direct volunteer interaction outside of URI Watershed Watch, Engagement with lake, pond, or similar associations, and which should include: Implementation strategies, Associated costs, by year, Possible funding mechanisms/opportunities. 2) Develop an annual water quality monitoring report providing detail as appropriate, while summarizing activities and findings; Present outcomes to the board annually, with recommendations for programmatic change for the next funding cycle (e.g., because there will be a 1-year lag between data availability for analysis and presentation).

Joe MacAndrews provided a second, which was unanimously approved. Matt agreed to contact Steve about service on the task force.

8. Educational Programs Task Force—Donna reported she has spent considerable time thinking through WPWA educational programming, and agreed to chair a task force with a charge of putting together a plan of action for Education Programs, member and school, for 2019 with a look beyond into 2020 and perhaps 2021. Jack Cross expressed interest in serving on the task force. Denis Poyer will also serve, and Chris will contact Dan Potts at Chariho to determine his interest and ability to serve. The intent is to have a plan in place for 2019 to guide board budget development for educational programming, and for Chris to use in developing staff needs. One element is to consider, if Wild and Scenic status is granted, if the W&S – Stewardship Coordinator could/should serve as half-time WPWA education staff or if these two positions should be independent of one another .
 - a. Alan Desbonnet made a motion to create an Education Programs Task Force whose charge is to develop a 2019 WPWA Education Program Plan that will guide development and implementation of WPWA school and member programs for 2019, with ideas for possible future implementation. Tom Ferrio provided a second to the motion, which was unanimously approved.
9. Save The Lakes—There was discussion about potentially hosting an event with Save The Lakes to inform and gauge interest in their engagement in water quality monitoring. It was agreed to table that idea until the Water Quality Task Force had a chance to meet and shape up possible engagement with that group relative to their planning efforts. Save The Lakes is hosting a “round table discussion” with RI Dept. Environmental Management on June 27th. Alan will contact Brenda to see if she can attend.
10. URI MESM Fellow Presentation—Matt gave a summary of work being conducted in the watershed by URI faculty and graduate students on anadromous fish migration and wetland functions post dam removal/restoration efforts, asking if this would be useful to have presented to the board? It was agreed that this would indeed be interesting and useful, and that alternatively it would be a great offering as a WPWA hosted event open to the membership and possibly the public. Matt agreed to follow up with Brett Still at URI to determine if this could happen in July or August.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38PM.