

WPWA  
Executive Director Report  
4/19/12

**Project Updates**

**Shannock**

The week of 4/8/12 RIDEM transplanted 1500 adult herring from the Saugatucket River to Worden Pond in the hope that they would spawn there. This is part of a larger herring and shad stocking program on the Pawcatuck by RIDEM and the USFWS. By the time the juveniles return (3-4years), fish passage from Little Narragansett Bay to Worden's should be possible through the completion of the three Shannock Projects.

**Lower Shannock Falls Project**

No significant progress to report.

**Horseshoe Falls Project**

Although the construction phase of this project is on hold waiting for the start of the in-stream regulatory season (7/1/12), baffles were installed in the fish ladder on 3/28/12. On Friday 3/30/12 C. Fox transported the first ever floating eelway exit from Manchester CT to RI along with its wooden test tank. The tank was delivered directly to RIDEM F&W staff at the Great Swamp. The eelway exit itself is in storage at C. Fox's house and will be installed as soon as the project mobilizes this spring. This project is over budget due to minor change orders (\$7K) and cost overruns on the eelway exit (\$40K), but the project remains well within its contingency budget. Tasks remaining to be completed include, river channel modifications, fish ladder staining, interpretive and dedication signage, site restoration, portage and easement execution.

**Kenyon Mill Dam Project**

The public comment period of the permit application has closed through which the project received only one comment letter. The letter was from the state historic preservation office indicating that an agreement with the project to mitigate adverse impacts has yet to be addressed. This is common and the negotiation process is progressing. NOAA staff are responsible for completing all Section 106 and NEPA documentation prior to the start of the project. This project has consumed a significant amount of C. Fox's time to raise additional funds and cut costs on the project. To date, C. Fox has raised \$30K from Save the Bay, \$50K from RICRMC, and is working with the RI Statewide Conservation Commission to "share" up to \$80K of their NRCS EWP money. A proposal was submitted by WPWA to the TNC-NOAA CRP program on 4/13/12 for \$250K. I urge you to read this proposal (attached to email) to learn more about the project and the level of support it is receiving.

An opinion of construction cost for the Kenyon Rock Ramp was submitted to C. Fox by Fuss & O'Neill on 3/30/12. Those costs were extremely conservative and total \$1.3million, well above the anticipated cost, leaving the project appx \$500K short on funding. The driving cost on the project is Control of Water (\$510K). C. Fox is working with RIDEM and Army Corps to allow for an alternate plan for water control that eliminates the need for costly pipes and pumps. The expectation is that the regulators will allow the project to dig a diversionary channel through the adjacent wetland that will convey the entire flow of the Pawcatuck around the site for the duration of construction. This approach should result in \$250K in cost savings to the project.

Ultimately, it will be the bids that dictate the cost of the project and whether there will be enough funds on hand to construct in 2012. The design is expected to be finalized with the partners over the coming weeks at which time the pre-qualified bidders will be provided the final project manual and notified of bidding commencement. C. Fox is working diligently to secure discounted and/or donated materials for the project and to raise additional funds to ensure that enough money will be obligated to the project to authorize construction. NOAA staff has assured WPWA that they are working to obtain a special federal

appropriation to ensure enough construction funds are available. Though they have not been forthcoming with an amount, they will have a commitment of additional funds for WPWA before the close of April. Below is a table that will help you better understand the funding sources and needs of the overall Shannock Project.

## Pawcatuck Fish Passage Project 4/16/2012

Expenses Thru Completion	Engineering & Permitting	Construction	FEMA	SHPO Pics	WPWA Oversight	Audit Fees	TOTAL
LSF	18,938	29,500	10,000	0	1,000	0	59,438
Horseshoe	42,167	175,277	10,000	0	2,500	14,000	243,944
Kenyon	122,303	*1,259,616.00	10,000	3,000	19,900	14,000	1,428,819
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>183,408</b>	<b>1,464,393</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>23,400</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>\$1,732,201</b>

\*This includes all alternates from F&O cost opinion dated 3/30/12 plus a 5% contingency and does not account for any cost saving measures such as alternate water bypass, stone recycling, use of existing offsite pipes and rip rap, or anticipated discount on natural stone purchases from a local quarry

### Revenue Thru Completion

NOAA ARRA/RICRMC	\$935,346	Remaining Available Funds
RICRMC CEHRTF	\$50,000	Secured
RAE - STB/NOAA	\$30,000	Secured
NRCS - EWP	\$80,000	Pending
TNC-NOAA	\$250,000	Pending
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,345,346</b>	
<b>POTENTIAL PROJECT SHORTFALL</b>		
<b>(\$1,732,201 - \$1,345,346)</b>		<b>\$386,855</b>

**White Rock Dam** No significant progress to report

**Campus Renovation Project** Minor improvements to the landscaping are continuing this spring.

**FEMA/USGS Mapping & Mitigation in the Watershed** This federal mapping initiative is being driven by the need to update flood maps as identified during the 2010 Flood and is primarily an effort for the individual town planners to participate in. FEMA will be remapping sections of the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers as part of the program. C. Fox discussed with FEMA and USGS the possibility of this mapping effort to include the upper Pawcatuck, specifically Shannock. The fish passage projects in Shannock are required to submit FEMA flood map revisions to FEMA on behalf of the towns of Charlestown and Richmond. This Shannock project cost is about \$30K and has been budgeted for. If FEMA would be willing to commit to remapping this section, we would be absolved of this project expense and requirement. Kerry Bogdan of FEMA indicated that they will not be able to commit to mapping this section of river until FY 2013, well later than the FEMA mandate to complete map revisions within 6 months post construction. Therefore the project remains required to complete this work and has budgeted accordingly.

**Water Quality Monitoring** No current monitoring projects are ongoing aside from our annual monitoring WQM locations throughout the watershed.

## **Kayaking Programs**

Staff is working to set the schedule of events for Summer 2012

**Hiking Programs** D. Aube is nearing the end of her monthly birding-hiking series. A last minute addition to the series was made for the last Saturday in the month of March. Participants went out at night to observe and be amazed by the Woodcock in its natural habitat. Roger Masse, a PhD student at URI, continues to be the most patient and informative instructor on all things birding. The final event will be held on May 5 in the Great Swamp Management Area.

**Browning Mill Pond in Exeter** The Trail Advisory Committee has granted us a one year extension on this project. We will continue to look for a volunteer to complete this project as the original Eagle Scout candidate has since declined to participate.

**Blowdown Clearing** In late 2011, the Trail Advisory Committee granted WPGA \$500 to purchase a 13 foot canoe with trolling motor from one of our volunteers to assist in blowdown removal. We have since refined the grant request to include an additional \$2,500 to support the cost of a private contractor to perform tree removal on the upper Wood River along with other sites in the watershed. This grant modification was recently approved and contractor negotiations are ongoing. Work is expected to begin sooner than expected if river flows continue to remain low for this time of year.

## **Public Outreach, Education & Access**

**Opening Day** WPGA staff served coffee to fishermen at the campus from 5:30-10:00am. Due to the nice weather, those fishing at the campus seemed more focused on fishing than coffee. Minor damage to one public parking sign was observed. The staff will work to replace the sign when time and budget allows. RIDEM provided porta-johns despite the new public restroom provided by WPGA, which did see frequent use.

**Events** The board member sponsored WPGA Lecture Series continued with a talk on the Kenney Azalea Garden. The series will continue in May with a final presentation on Sea Level Rise to be given by state geologist Jon Boothroyd at WPGA's Annual Meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Weekapaug Golf Club.

**Writing and Community Service Student** The final paper from the student was not what we anticipated and we will likely not be posting it on our website. However, a new crop of students has been engaged under the direction of D. Poyer and D. Ionata and we are hopeful that the products of this phase will be useful.

**CCRI Community Service Work Day** WPGA applied for and was selected by CCRI to be a recipient of their of their state-wide community service day on March 27, 2012. A group of students came to the WPGA campus to rake, plant and mulch new plant beds, along with other yard cleanup projects. They also cleaned out the kayaks and installed new foot pegs and handles in order to get them ready for the summer programs. Earth Care Farms donated 1 cubic yard of compost (\$60 value). D. Poyer contracted a severe case of poison ivy during this cleanup event which resulted in a minor Worker's Comp claim for one week of missed work by her.

**Envirothon** D. Poyer will continue as the Aquatics chair and judge for the 2012 RI Envirothon. She also gave a presentation on storm water issues at the workshop held on Feb. 18, 2012.

**Project Wet** D. Poyer continues to attempt to arrange coordinator training with the Project Wet team. Due to circumstances on the Project Wet side she has been unable to arrange training earlier

than mid May, 2012. She will also be attending training at the Project Wet Conference in late May, which will be held this year in Bridgewater, MA.

**RI Blueways Alliance**      *No new developments.*

**Website**      The Shop Page was recently modified to allow for automatic calculation of RI sales tax which reduces the burden of time for the staff to perform that after the sale has occurred. The page now complies with ALL the current sales tax regulations including assessing a tax on shipping costs.

**Newsletter**      The Winter 2012 issue is complete and ready to go to the printer. WPWA is currently accepting submissions from the board, members, associates, and the public at large for the Spring 2012 issue, due to be released in mid August. Please send your contributions to: [danielle@wpwa.org](mailto:danielle@wpwa.org)

**Merchandise**      *No new developments*

**Constant Contact/Social Media**      *No new developments*

**Land Acquisition**      *No new developments*

**Presentations & Conferences**      D. Poyer will gave two presentations at the Land and Water Summit on March 10th. She also conducted a workshop at REI in Cranston in March. C. Fox will co-present “Working Rivers: Balancing Restoration and Preservation” at the 2012 Statewide Historic Preservation Conference. For more info visit [http://www.preservation.ri.gov/conference/12overview.php?utm\\_source=February+2012&utm\\_campaign=conf+feb+2012&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.preservation.ri.gov/conference/12overview.php?utm_source=February+2012&utm_campaign=conf+feb+2012&utm_medium=email)

**Operation Military Kids (OMK)**      D. Poyer will apply for a grant from REI to cover the expenses to repeat this meaningful program in 2012. Though adequate funding has already been secured from the Lattner Family Foundation.

**Stormwater Outreach Committee**      *No new developments*

**Statewide Freshwater Wetland Restoration Strategy**      DEM is moving ahead with the development of a coordinated Freshwater Wetland Restoration Strategy. They are targeting the end of September to have a draft strategy available for review. The advisory group information and support materials are posted on the web @ <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/wetlands/rsdev.htm>. WPWA will continue to be a key player in this process.

**Statewide River Restoration Strategy Team**      WPWA is represented on this team that is coordinated by Narragansett Bay Estuary Program and Save the Bay under the umbrella of the RI Habitat Restoration Strategy Team (RICRMC) with the intent of shaping future statewide river restoration policies and priorities. The purpose is to create a coordinated statewide effort toward restoring RI’s rivers with an emphasis on dam removals. The group is in the process of compiling a white paper with support from an NBEP intern that will detail past, present and future riverine restoration activities statewide. C. Fox serves as the Team’s WPWA contributor.

**Watershed Counts**      D Poyer and WPWA volunteer E. Torello have attended meetings to develop indicators for fresh water quality. The subcommittee presented their work at a workshop on Jan. 26. The final product will be presented on Earth Day in April at the State House. WPWA received the first

payment of \$3,500 in Nov., 2011. The next payment will be \$2,500 on approximately June 30, 2012. All funds go toward supporting D. Poyer's time invested in this project.

**Water Trail Mapping** The RI Blueways Alliance (Blueways) has received a grant from the RIF to develop maps of river trails for 10 Watershed Councils in RI. The grant has paid for a graphics artist to create 2 maps for each watershed. The watershed groups must provide the text and pictures for the maps. An example of a map can be seen at: <http://www.exploreri.org/documents/UpperNemasketMapGuide.pdf>. The same designer has been hired to do the Blueways mapping project. D. Poyer has selected the two routes on the Wood River. She is working on providing the designer with the defined river segments, key land marks, caution areas, text, and photos. Once completed, the maps will be made available as pdf files on the Blueways website, [www.exploreri.org](http://www.exploreri.org) and WPWA website. Visitors to these sites would be able to download the maps for free. WPWA will own the files and can update or change them.

Fox and Poyer decided to take advantage of this mapping project because many people are using the internet almost exclusively to get maps and information about paddling routes. These maps will likely not cut down on River Guide sales any more than the internet use already does. The maps will contain information about WPWA and should generate more interest in the Association.

#### **Pawcatuck Estuary Water Quality Issues** *No new developments*

**Press Articles** Several articles on WPWA's Winter Fly Tying Program and Fly Rod Building have been published in the Wood River Press and Westerly Sun in early 2012.

#### **Partnerships**

**Save the Lakes** No significant progress to report

**Wild & Scenic** last week Congressman Langevin & Courtney requested that WPWA send a representative to testify before the House Natural Resources Committee on our proposed National Park Service Wild & Scenic Designation. Because WPWA is the primary applicant and has been formally requested to testify, I have authorized Denise to travel to DC this Tuesday to provide testimony to the Committee. She is extremely busy preparing the required written testimony and is working closely with our partner John Torgan of the Nature Conservancy and Langevin's staff to prepare her written and oral testimony. If you wish to watch her 10 am testimony on 4/17/12, it may be available live at this website <http://naturalresources.house.gov/Live/>

**Southern New England Paddle Group /Rhode Island Canoe and Kayak Association** Jim Cole has recommended WPWA for a \$250 RICKA grant to purchase new foot pegs for our kayaks.

**RI Environmental Education Association** D. Poyer is serving on the RIEEA website committee. This site will include a searchable database of all environmental organizations in the state.

**URI NEMO** WPWA continues to collaborate with this URI Coop Ext. project through the inclusion of content in our quarterly newsletter.

**Narragansett Bay Estuary Program** No significant progress to report

**Save the Bay** WPWA has been sub-awarded \$30K in Restore America's Estuaries money originally granted to STB that will be applied WPWA's Kenyon Mill Dam Fish Restoration Project.

**The Nature Conservancy** John Torgan is unable to accompany D. Poyer to testify on behalf of WPWA's Wild and Scenic designation. However he has been extremely helpful in preparing Poyer's testimony and providing the needed coaching.

**RIDEM** Recently acquired 85 acres on the west side of the Wood River upstream of our campus surrounding Frying Pan Pond. They intend to improve public access there. C. Fox has had preliminary talks with RIDEM regarding the possibility of WPWA administering the access improvements with funds from RIDEM.

**HopArts** No significant progress to report

### **Routine Business**

**Champlin Capital Revolving Fund** No significant progress to report

**Federally Mandated Audit** Our 2011 Audit is underway but progressing slowly.

**Membership** WPWA's Membership Renewal letter will be sent out in early to mid May.

**Office Watershed Map** We're making slow but steady progress on this volunteer effort by Ed Poyer with support from Dr. August's GIS lab at URI. The working draft is hanging in WPWA's conference room for inspection and comment.

### **Watershed Concerns**

**Brushy Brook** No significant progress to report

**Renewable Resources Inc. (Potter Hill) Hydro Project** No significant progress to report

**Loves Truck Stop and Country Stores** No significant progress to report