

WPWA  
Executive Director Report  
6/20/2013

The format of this report, the board meeting agenda, and the soon to be drafted 2013 WPWA Work Plan has been changed to reflect the outcomes of our 2013 strategic planning meeting.

**Outreach & Education**

- Education & Recreation Grant Updates:
  - *EPA Urban Rivers*
    - Heather will be attending fish seminar in late June.
    - Denise and Heather have developing protocols & training manuals.
    - Sites for the project were selected. Denise & Heather visited potential monitoring sites for the Woonasquatucket & Moshassuck Rivers.
    - Training for volunteers has been scheduled for July and August.
    - We have lost Meg Kerr as the PM for the grant due to the ongoing reorganization of the NBEP. WPWA has met with Meg and her duties have been divided amongst the partners.
  - *National Wildlife Foundation*
    - ECRI received a \$3,300 grant from NWF to contract with WPWA to conduct paddles for underserved populations.
    - WPWA will receive \$3000 of the \$3,300 grant.
    - Recruiting volunteers & scheduling up to 15 free paddles for the spring & summer, two will be Operation Military Kids paddles.
    - Three groups have already come to the campus for paddles.
  - *RI Rivers Council*
    - Denise completed all 4 Teacher Training Workshops and will be submitting the final report to RIRC by the end of June.
  - *RI Trail Advisory Committee*

WPWA was awarded a grant of \$3,000 to fund blowdown removal on the Wood & Pawcatuck Rivers and to purchase a chainsaw. Removals will begin when river levels decrease to seasonal norms.
- Education Programs:
  - Denise again took part in the RI Envirothon as a judge.
  - Denise conducted 2 in-school programs & 5 school field trips in June.
  - Denise took a Boston Globe reporter for a paddle on the Upper Wood River related to RI Bluways river trail mapping efforts.

Article was circulated electronically to the board and featured WPWA's participation in Bluways.

- Family Fun Fishing took place 4/20/13. Jay Boyer (WPWA member & Trout Unlimited volunteer) assisted Denise
- Summer Programs:
  - Check WPWA Events Calendar for all the paddling trips this summer [www.wpwa.org/events.php](http://www.wpwa.org/events.php)
  - Southern New England Paddlers (SNEP) will conduct monthly paddle training programs this summer at WPWA Campus starting in May. The \$20 fee will be donated to WPWA.
  - Ten paddle programs for the public are scheduled this summer. WPWA will be offering 3 full day Introduction to Kayaking courses.
  - Denise and Heather will complete their ACA certification by the end of June. Heather completed the ACA Level 1 Kayak Instructor training June 1-2.
  - Denise will update the WPWA Education Brochure and post it on the website.
- RI Blueways:
  - "Across RI" paddle including events hosted by WPWA was canceled due to extraordinarily high water conditions.
  - Denise plans to make 3 more river trail maps that will include the entire Pawcatuck River. Grant funding will cover design & production of the maps.
- TAC:
  - Denise will work on revising Education Grants for the RI TAC.

### **Advocacy**

- Watershed Counts reported on freshwater river and lake water quality at the state house on April 23.
  - Since the Narragansett Bay Program is being restructured, it is unsure if Watershed Counts will be continued. It has strong support from the Coastal Institute and RIDEM, so we expect to see some activity starting up in the fall.
- Wild & Scenic:
  - The Pawcatuck Protection Act was voted on and passed by the House on June 12.
  - The companion bill was heard and passed by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee on April 23.

- We are now waiting for the bill to be heard by the full Senate. No word yet when that will be. At that point it will need to be seen if the Senate will adopt the House wording for the bill. Then it gets signed into law by the President.
- Denise continues to work with NPS to write up a preliminary report on the suitability of rivers proposed to be included in the National System. The report is almost completed and the conclusion is to recommend that the proposed rivers do indeed qualify for the study.
- Denise attended an event with Secretary of the Interior Jewell, Senators Reed & Whitehouse, Rep. Cicilline, and several other prominent environmental leaders in RI. The event focused on the designation of the Blackstone River Corridor as a new National Park.

### **Conservation & Preservation**

- Chris continues to make progress on tasks to achieve construction at Kenyon Mill Dam in June 2013. Project has been slightly delayed primarily due to high flows in the river, permitting, and historic consultation/NEPA requirements.
- WPWA will continue to monitor 40 sites for Water Quality in the watershed.
- WPWA will complete its Purple Loosestrife monitoring this summer.
- WPWA volunteers & Heather assisted in river/water access cleanups for the 2013 Earth Day Cleanup event on 4/20 & 4/21. EZ Waste Systems, Inc. donated a dumpster & tipping fees were waived.

### **Fundraising**

- St. Paul's School "Sparks" / WPWA Fundraiser:
  - This event has grossed nearly \$4,500 (net appx \$2,500)
- FR Committee continues pursuit of potential Art Auction.
- Fundraising logistical planning & implementation consumed much of the staff's time in May and early June.

### **Membership**

- Membership related activities also consumed much of the staff's time in May and early June.
- WPWA's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting
  - 49 attended, of which, 36 paid
  - Attendees submitted 11 free 1 yr individual memberships
- Membership Task Force
  - Guidance and deliverables are available on the Board Doc's webpage under "Ad Hoc Committees".

- Taskforce met once. Heather provided Taskforce with current membership database to determine what information they'll want.
- Membership renewal letter sent out 6/12/13. Reminder stickers, for those who have not renewed as of July, will go on Spring 2013 Newsletters.
- 2013-2014 membership prices were increased and have been updated on website, renewal letter, & membership form.
- Several people have renewed 2013-2014 membership prior to renewal letters, at increased prices, no complaints yet.
- The Watershed Winter 2013 Newsletter was sent to members on 3/29/13 ([www.wpwa.org/newsletters/Newsletter\\_Winter\\_2013\\_COLOR.pdf](http://www.wpwa.org/newsletters/Newsletter_Winter_2013_COLOR.pdf))

### **Miscellaneous**

- 2013 Champlin Foundation Grant WPWA: *See recent email for update.*
- 2012 Year End Audited Financials and the overall Audit are well behind schedule due to delays by our Auditing firm, YKSM. June board meeting will be preceded by an Executive Committee meeting to address the \$20K year end 2012 shortfall.