

WPWA
Executive Director Report
10/18/2012

Project Updates

Shannock

The week of 4/8/12 RIDEM transplanted 1500 adult herring from the Saugatucket River to Worden Pond. RIDEM sampling in Worden Pond conducted the week of 9/9/12 confirms the presence of juvenile herring. This is the first migratory juveniles known to exist in the Pond since the Pawcatuck River dams were constructed in the 1800's. *See Press Article at report's end from the 10/10/12 Wood River Press and Charlestown Press*

Lower Shannock Falls Project

All WPWA related construction activities are now complete. Funding contract for \$20K between WPWA & USFWS was approved for weir modifications made in Sept. Reimbursement will be sought and the grant will be closed out in early Nov. when all invoices for services are in. This allows \$20K of NOAA ARRA funds to be reprogrammed to Kenyon's 2013 construction.

Horseshoe Falls Project

The Lawson M. Cary Jr Memorial Fishway is now structurally complete including the needed river channel modifications to maximize attraction to the fish ladder entrance. Project partners have confirmed that all facets of the project meet or exceed passage and design criteria. The installation of the interpretive sign (to be installed in November) will fully satisfy our State Historic Preservation agreement & all Section 106 & NEPA requirements. Landscaping is now complete. The dedication monument was installed on 10/12/12. Dedication ceremony on 10/20 at 10am will be an informal event and will not serve as the project's ribbon cutting. A ribbon cutting ceremony for all three Shannock fish passage projects is currently being planned and budget for by WPWA, Save the Bay and NOAA for Spring 2014.

Final completion meeting is expected to occur in November. The temporary construction easement that WPWA holds with the property owners expires upon final completion. The easement between the landowner and RIDEM that describes ownership of the ladder by the State and provides for permanent portage for the public is still under review by the owner but execution is expected to occur in late November or December.

Kenyon Mill Dam Project

This project is now a full year behind schedule. Delays are primarily the result of the NOAA's (sole funder) extensive engineering effort to achieve a full dam removal. In order to begin construction of the new dam and the fish passage rock ramp in June 2012, NOAA must complete its NEPA and Section 106 requirements. A verbal agreement has been reached between the project and the State Historic Preservation Officers. These components must be finalized for RIDEM and ACoE to sign the fully prepared permits. WPWA continues to work on behalf of the landowner, Kenyon Industries and the Towns of Richmond & Charlestown to obtain FEMA's approval for the minor change in flood elevations within the immediate project area (85ft of streambed). The increase is the direct result of the rock ramp structure itself and the increase is isolated to the structure itself. There will be no changes to existing surface water elevations behind the dam or below the proposed rock ramp. FEMA has given verbal approval

of the negligible floodplain impacts of the passage structure as have the owner's flood insurance provider.

Though the project is not fully permitted, the verbal feedback we have received from the permitting agencies provides us the confidence that the project will be shovel ready this winter. Contractors were pre-qualified for this project in 2011 in tandem with the Horseshoe Fish Ladder bidding process. A call for construction cost proposals will be made this Fall and costs obtained by year end. Bidders will be asked to provide an alternate water management plan as an alternate component of their bids to reduce the estimated \$500K cost to manage water via pipes and pumps. The expectation is that bidders will offer an option and price to divert the flow of the river through a temporary channel constructed in the adjacent wetland. While aggressive, we expect that to result in a \$250K cost savings. This option has been verbally discussed with the permitting agencies and we have received positive feedback. If this option is proposed by the contractors and selected by the project we will work with the permit agencies to formally modify our water management plan.

The conservative opinion of cost for construction (with 10% contingency) from our engineering firm is \$1.2million, which translates to a \$735K funding shortfall. This cost includes engineering oversight (\$100K) but does not account for anticipated cost savings through the potential alternate water management plan or reuse of existing materials (on and offsite) which our bidders will calculate into their bids. The bidding schedule should result in the best possible price as contractors are eager to secure 2013 contracts. We expect the low bid to reduce the \$735K shortfall by 30-40%. NOAA has secured \$750K for the project through a 2013 award to Save the Bay from Restore America's Estuaries (\$281,393) and through a 2013 Nature Conservancy NOAA partnership grant program (\$469,860). The funds will but will not be obligated until the exact shortfall is identified through bidding. Before WPWA contracts with a construction firm, the needed funding will be obligated by contract (early 2013). Thus assuring we have the funds to support the construction contract. Construction contract signing is expected in Spring 2013 in anticipation of June mobilization for the July 1 regulatory start of in-stream work. Project should be substantially complete in winter 2013. Final completion is anticipated in Spring 2014.

White Rock Dam *No new developments*

Campus Renovation Project Phase 3 - DEM has started the design phase for their portage path across the street from the WPWA campus. Poyer and Fox have review the current 10% design and are not pleased with its minimalistic approach. Associate director L. Mouradjian is schedule to visit the site on 10/15 at which time WPWA will discuss maximizing the potential of the project. We will advocate for some site enhancements like an outdoor classroom and strongly urge RIDEM to include these components in their project. Doing so will avoid expense and replication of effort in the near future and result in the best possible project that maximizes the current use of the public access property.

FEMA/USGS Mapping & Mitigation in the Watershed *No known developments*

Water Quality Monitoring Linda Green of Watershed Watch has agreed to lower WPWA's invoice total to \$9,000 for the 2012 monitoring season, a reduction of about \$5000. We will need to consider how many of the 11 lakes and ponds and 18 river and stream sites we will be

able to cover next year. There is a possibility that Watershed Watch will be able to give us another discount in 2013.

Habitat Studies *No new developments*

Kayaking Programs Instead of a Source to Sea Paddle, WPWA did two kayaking trips on the Upper and Lower Wood River this season. Hamilton & Aube (as a volunteer) led a bioluminescent kayak trip at night on Ninigret Pond on September 14, 2012, where they saw many glowing jellyfish at night. There were nine paying participants and one member from the press who attended.

Due to the economy and cost cutting measures, there were no bookings by camp groups this summer. However, with the help of a portion of the Lattner grant, WPWA was able to offer underserved groups an educational experience through several kayaking programs. These included over 60 children and their families for two Operation Military Kids days; twelve students from Central Falls; 15 students from RYSE; and 22 residents in the Gateways program. Other programs included three school groups and an end of the year staff trip for ASRI. Poyer conducted two Introduction to Kayaking programs which were extremely well received. Hamilton and Poyer will be discussing advertising our kayaking programs for next summer.

Hiking Programs *No new developments*

Browning Mill Pond in Exeter Ben Nadeau, an Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 1 Charlestown, started repair and improvement work on the Browning Mill Pond trail Oct. 13. The bulk of the work, replacing the fencing along the west side of the trail to separate the public from the RIDEM Fish Hatchery, will be done Sat, Oct. 20. Funds from our RI TAC grant will be used to pay for fence materials and renting a post-hole digger. The scout's volunteer hours will serve as the required match.

Blowdown Clearing *No new developments*

Public Outreach, Education & Access

Writing and Community Service Student The final product from the URI students has been consistently disappointing. We do not plan to take part in this course in the future.

Project Wet Poyer has scheduled a Facilitators Workshop for Oct. 17 & 18, in coordination with the RIDEM Aquatic Ed Program. There are 20 participants signed up. The workshop is free and covered by funds from RIDEM. Poyer's time will be covered by the RI Rivers Council grant. Facilitators who successfully complete this workshop will be required to do at least one Project Wet training for teachers within the next year. Poyer will also be putting on an educators training by Dec. Through an arrangement with RIDEM, all curriculum guides will be free at every workshop and training. Hamilton took part in the Project WILD Aquatic, Project WILD, & Growing Up WILD workshop and is now certified as a facilitator.

RI Blueways Alliance *No new developments*

Website *No new developments*

Newsletter The Summer 2012 issue is currently in editing and will be released by the end of October. WPWA is currently accepting submissions from the board, members, associates, and the public at large for the next issue, due to be released at the end of the year. Please send your contributions to: heather@wpwa.org.

Merchandise *No new developments*

Facebook If you are on Facebook, please "like" us and share the page with your "friends". Millions of people take part in this form of social media, therefore this is an opportunity to get our logo out there, gain members, and share what we do with the public. If you have anything that you think we should share with our "fans", please send it to heather@wpwa.org.

Constant Contact/Social Media Hamilton took part in a "webinar" through Constant Contact about using social media to connect to, engage, & influence members/fans.

Land Acquisition *No new developments*

Presentations & Conferences D. Poyer will give a presentation to RICKA on Oct. 15 regarding the Wild and Scenic Rivers process. Poyer also attended a RITES roundtable on Oct. 13.

Operation Military Kids (OMK) D. Ianota is working to secure funding for this and a similar program for disadvantaged youth in 2013. C. Fox has requested the Lattner Foundation once again fund OMK in our recent 2013 funding proposal submitted on 10/11/12.

Stormwater Outreach Committee *No new developments*

Statewide Freshwater Wetland Restoration Strategy *No new developments*

Statewide River Restoration Strategy Team *No new developments*

Watershed Counts D. Poyer has started attending committee meetings to create maps showing water quality indicators for lakes and ponds. Last year the committee created maps for rivers and streams. A final product and report will be ready for Earth Day, April 2013.

Water Trail Mapping *No new developments*

Press Articles An article about Aube's departure and Hamilton's arrival at WPWA was published in the Wood River Press. Several articles on WPWA's tree removal project and the Shannock project have been published over the last few months.

Partnerships

Wild & Scenic The Senate Resources subcommittee did not hear the bill before they adjourned in September. The Senate will not reconvene until after the elections in November. According to Senator Reed's staff there is a slight chance that they could include the Pawcatuck Watershed Protection Act if there is a Land's bill heard during the "lame duck" session. Otherwise, we will need to go through this process again with the next congress. Because we were able to get this bill through the House already, we are optimistic that it will be approved by next year.

Southern New England Paddle Group /Rhode Island Canoe and Kayak Association *No new developments*

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. Hamilton has contacted NEMO for a submission to the Fall 2012 newsletter.

Narragansett Bay Estuary Program *No new developments*

Save the Bay WPWA has been sub-awarded \$30K in 2012 Restore America's Estuaries funds originally granted to STB that will be applied WPWA's Kenyon Mill Dam Fish Restoration Project. An additional \$281,393 will come to WPWA through this same conduit in 2013. WPWA is in negotiations with STB to carry out the logistics of the 2014 ribbon cutting ceremony for the Shannock fish passage projects.

The Nature Conservancy *No new developments*

RIDEM *No new developments*

HopArts The annual HopArts Trail was held October 13th & 14th.

Routine Business

Forrest & Frances Lattner Foundation 2013 Funding Request WPWA's 2013 funding request letter in the amount of \$80K was peer reviewed prior to submission on 10/15/12. It requests support for our 2013 recreational and educational programs as well as our 2013 Strategic Planning process. Appx \$70K is needed to balance our 2013 budget. We received \$53K from this foundation for 2012. A 2012 funding report letter was submitted as well as all the other required supporting documentation that is required annually. Our 2011 990 tax return is not yet complete and will be forwarded to Lattner by month's end. WPWA relies on this foundation to support nearly 30% of our annual operating expenses. *See request letter at report's end.*

Champlin Capital Revolving Fund *No new developments*

Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition WPWA received this from Sen. Whitehouse this month for our 2011 Chafee Leadership Award. It has been framed and will be hung in the conference room.

Federally Mandated Audit Our 2011 Audit is nearly complete and in the final draft phase. Many findings from previous years have been resolved. The Treasurer will summarize the Audit at the October meeting and a full report and copy of the final version will be available to the board in November.

Membership The Board decided in Sept to raise membership rates in 2013 to \$35 for individuals and \$50 for families. This has been accounted for in the 2013 DRAFT WPWA Budget. The staff is working to amend publications and posting in preparation for the rate increase. The board prefers that we not “shine a light” on this increase through the renewal process.

Annual Appeal Hamilton has ordered and received envelopes in preparation for the Annual Appeal. Hamilton is now working on updating the Appeal Letter, which should be sent out by the first or second week of November. Each letter will be individually addressed to the recipient.

Office Watershed Map *No new developments*

Watershed Concerns

Brushy Brook *No new known developments*

Renewable Resources Inc. (Potter Hill) Hydro Project *No new confirmed developments*

Loves Truck Stop and Country Stores *No new known developments*

By David Smith

Press writer

SOUTH KINGSTOWN – Alewives stocked in Worden's Pond earlier this year have successfully spawned and their 3- to 5-inch young have been heading downstream to the sea.

The goal is to have them return in three to four years and repeat the cycle, according to Department of Environmental Management's fisheries biologist Phil Edwards. Once that cycle is revived stocking would no longer be necessary.

What makes the stocking at Worden's timely is the removal of obstacles that will allow the fish to return to the pond. A fish ladder was built at Horseshoe Falls in Shannock, and the Kenyon Dam is slated to be removed next year in plenty of time before they return. The fish will be able to go over the three-foot high dam heading downstream this fall, but the height would be an impediment to travel upstream to the pond when they return. Shad and river herring are not capable of jumping.

Also, having the alewives spawn in the pond imprints the fry with the chemical makeup of the water and increase the odds of their return, according to Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Executive Director Chris Fox.

"We deem it a success," said Edwards. "Preliminary results show that they successfully spawned in Worden's Pond. We check for juveniles as an indicator of what will return in three to four years."

Fishermen last week saw bass chasing schools of fish above Horseshoe Falls dam, which was most likely alewives heading downstream, said Fox.

There is a high probability that the fish will return said Jim Turek, NOAA Marine Habitat Resource Specialist.

"It's just a question of how many," he says. "Those fish are imprinted so they have the drive to return to Worden's Pond."

In terms of ecological value of the herring, Turek says the result could be bigger largemouth bass and northern pike.

"I've always hoped to get fish into Worden's Pond," Turek said, adding that it's possible to have 200 to 1,000 adults per acre in the 1,051 acre pond, the largest in Rhode Island.

The alewives or river herring are important to the freshwater system because they provide forage for freshwater fish and birds. When they reach the ocean, they provide forage for other fish such as bluefish and stripers.

"I've never seen growth rates that high," said Turek. "Normally, they are two to three inches long. They are almost double that size."

Turek attributes the growth to ideal and ample food sources in Worden's Pond, as well as cooler water this summer, which put less stress on the fish.

A total of 7,000 alewives stocked by DEM into ponds that drain into the Pawcatuck River were acquired out of state or from existing Rhode Island runs. A total of 3,000 were dumped into Worden's Pond, 3,000 in Watchaug Pond in Charlestown and 1,000 in Chapman's Pond in Westerly. (DEM did not check for young alewives in Watchaug or Chapman's)

Each female alewife can produce as many as 100,000 fry. An estimated 35 percent of the fish stocked were female.

While those numbers seem high, the mortality rate for the fry is high, said Edwards.

It is currently illegal to catch alewives, but the similar looking American Shad can be caught and released.

In regard to the Kenyon dam, packages with engineering criteria for the removal of the dam are scheduled to be presented to contractors this month and the lowest bidder will be identified by the end of the year, according to Fox.

The permitting phase of the project will begin in January, Fox added, and once the funding is in place the contract will be awarded. Work will begin on the site across the river from the Kenyon mill in June and actual work in the river will begin in July. After the Kenyon dam is removed, the last fix on the Pawcatuck River is the Potter Hill Dam.

"The Potter Hill fishway is a major impediment to fish passage," said Turek. "We have learned a lot" about fishways since it was built more than 30 years ago.

"Fish are confused by the hydraulics of the water flowing over the dam and have a hard time finding the entrance to the fish ladder," Turkek said.

The Potter Hill Dam was completed in 1903 and measures 112 feet wide and 10 feet high.

The solution to better fish passage is to remove the dam or cut down its height, Turek said.

American shad were also stocked this year below Bradford dam. About 1 million Shad fry, produced after bringing the fish to a local hatchery, were also released above the Bradford dam and at Cronan's Landing in Wood River Junction.

The shad-stocking program dates to 1975. It was discontinued in 1985 when the number of fish returning up the Pawcatuck was abundant. In the early 2000s, the numbers started to wane, Edwards said, and restocking efforts of adult shad began anew in 2009, with the stocking of fry beginning in 2010. These shad have been gathered from the Connecticut River.

Shad are bigger than alewives but serve the same function in the river system as forage for other fish and birds. In fact, when the fish are running, cormorants are in abundance in the shallow water below Potter Hill dam. Osprey also benefit from the run of the fish.

October 11, 2012

Susan Lattner Lloyd, Chairperson
Douglas W. Hollenbeck, President
David W. and Drew H. Hollenbeck, Trustees
Forrest & Frances Lattner Foundation
198 NE 6th Avenue Delray Beach, FL 33483

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|-----------------------------|-------------|
| EIN # | 22-2504648 |
| Paid Staff & Interns | 4 |
| Unpaid Volunteers | 225 |
| 2011 Total Income | \$1,577,133 |
| 2011 Total Program Expenses | \$1,361,551 |
| 2011 Mgt & General Expenses | \$155,654 |
| 2011 Fundraising Expenses | \$1,909 |

Dear Trustees,

The Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association (WPWA), a 501(c)(3) conservation organization founded in 1983, respectfully requests the Forrest & Frances Lattner Foundation continue to support our shared mission to promote and protect the integrity of the lands and waters of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed. Your 2013 contribution of \$80,000 toward our annual operating expenses is critical this year. WPWA maintains an interdisciplinary program of restoration, research, education, and recreation to promote stewardship of the watershed through volunteerism and partnership with other local environmental organizations. Your 2013 financial support will ensure that the shared water resources of Rhode Island and Connecticut will be protected for generations to come.

With your assistance we will continue the valuable multi-year programs and initiatives that were made possible through your support last year. In addition WPWA will undergo a comprehensive 2013 WPWA Strategic Planning process to evaluate our board's responsibilities, membership and fundraising capabilities with the assistance of an outside consultant. We recently were awarded a grant from the Rhode Island Foundation to support some of the expenses associated with this process. Please partner with us and the Rhode Island Foundation in this endeavor to create an even smarter and more financially savvy board.

WPWA is undertaking this meaningful exercise for a multitude of reasons. Since joining the organization in 2008, we have made some important changes that have elevated our productivity, efficiency and visibility of the work that we do to protect the watershed. Our board of trustees had become more engaged. The staff and our members have been re-energized and our strategic partnerships have been fortified. Internal policies, procedures, and systems have been established in response to our annual federally mandated audits. In short, we are now a highly functioning, professional organization poised to take this next step.

The top priority of our organizational overhaul is to achieve the financial diversity that has been lacking since our inception. In the last five years we have seen private funding sources dwindle and governmental funding sources all but evaporate. In response to these funding changes we intend to strengthen our program and membership revenue streams to offset our educational and scientific research expenses. In our strategic planning process, the trustees and staff will work with Lighthouse Consulting to assess and implement realistic and stable fundraising strategies for 2014 and beyond.

We are also asking you to support us as we attempt to maintain the educational programs that we routinely provide to students, educators, and other non-profit organizations during our 2013 capacity building process. Thank you for your steadfast support of all the valuable programs that enrich our local community.

Most Appreciatively,

Christopher J. Fox
Executive Director