

WOOD-PAWCATUCK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

BYLAWS -

ARTICLE I

PURPOSE

Section 1. Purpose. The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable and scientific purposes as described in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, to:

1. encourage the restoration, preservation and conservation of the natural resources of the Watershed;
2. protect and conserve fish and wildlife, forest and other plant life, water sources, soils, and historical and archeological resources;
3. promote an understanding among the citizens of the Watershed of the value of restoring, preserving and conserving the resources of the Watershed;
4. sponsor and encourage scientific investigations to aid the accomplishment of the above purposes;
5. help coordinate and integrate those activities of other agencies, industries, and organizations having an interest in the resources of the Watershed; and
6. through the above named activities to play its part in giving assistance to the common effort of the inhabitants of the area to make the Watershed a better place in which to live.

Section 2. Powers. The corporation shall have the power, either directly or indirectly, either alone or in conjunction or cooperation with others, to do any and all lawful acts and things and to engage in any and all lawful activities which may be necessary, useful, suitable, desirable or proper for the furtherance, accomplishment, fostering or attainment of any or all of the purposes for which the corporation is organized, and to aid or assist other organizations whose activities are such as to further accomplish, foster, or attain any of such purposes. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the corporation shall exercise only such powers as are in furtherance of the exempt purposes of organizations set forth in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

Section 3. Non-Profit Status. This corporation is not organized for profit and no part of the net earnings of ~~the corporation shall inure to the benefit of any officer, director, or member~~ (except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to and for the corporation). In the event of the liquidation of the corporation, whether voluntary or involuntary, no member shall be entitled to any distribution or division of the corporation's property or the proceeds thereof, and upon such liquidation, the balance of all money, assets and other property of the corporation, after the payment of all its debts and obligations, shall, pursuant to a resolution of the corporation or an order of a court of competent jurisdiction in the State of Rhode Island, be used by, or distributed to, an organization or organizations which would then qualify under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, and the regulations promulgated thereunder, and which will use such property to accomplish the purposes for which this corporation is constituted.

Comment [A1]: This is part of the original / 1983 version of bylaws and was most likely deleted by accident and should be restored.

Comment [mrb2]: Agreed with additional edits, which language tracks the Articles of Association.

ARTICLE II

OFFICES

Section 1. Principal Office. The principal office of the corporation shall be located at 203 Arcadia Road, Hope Valley, Rhode Island. The corporation may have such other offices or places of business, either within or without the State of Rhode Island, as the Board of Trustees may from time to time establish or the business of the corporation may require.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERS

Section 1. Membership. The members of the corporation shall be those individuals who demonstrate their support of the purposes of the corporation by paying the annual membership fee set by the Board of Trustees.

Section 2. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the members shall be held during the month of May in each year, for the purpose of electing trustees and officers and for the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting. If the election of trustees and officers shall not be held on the day designated herein or at any annual meeting of the members, or at any adjournment thereof, the Board of Trustees shall cause the election to be held at a special meeting of the members as soon thereafter as is convenient.

Comment [A3]: This is in the original/1983 version of the bylaws. Historically, officers were elected at the annual meeting. Restore?

Comment [mrb4]: Disagree. Our practice, and Art. 5, Sec. 2 indicate that officers are elected by the Trustees at the first meeting following the annual meeting.

Section 3. Special Meetings. Special meeting of the members, for any purpose or purposes, unless otherwise prescribed by statute, may be called by the President or by the Board of Trustees, and shall be called by the President at the request of not less than one-third of the members.

Section 4. Place of Meeting. The Board of Trustees may designate any place as the place of meeting for any annual meeting or for any special meeting called by the Board of Trustees. A waiver of notice signed by all members entitled to vote at a meeting may designate any place for the holding of such meeting.

Comment [A5]: This is part of the original/1983 version of bylaws and was most likely deleted by accident and should be restored.

Comment [mrb6]: Disagree. I would leave out the old language and keep it simple.

Section 5. Notice of Meeting. Written notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and, in case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall, unless otherwise prescribed by statute or these bylaws, be delivered not less than five (5) nor more than thirty (30) days before the date of the meeting, either personally, by regular mail, by electronic means, or by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in Washington County, Rhode Island by or at the direction of the President or the Secretary or the persons calling the meeting, to each member of record entitled to vote at such meeting. If mailed via regular mail, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail addressed to the member at the address which appears on the records of the corporation, with postage-prepaid thereon. If sent by electronic means, notice shall be deemed to be delivered when transmitted to the electronic address which appears on the records of the corporation.

Section 6. Quorum. Fifteen (15) members of the corporation entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of members. If less than a quorum of the members are represented at a meeting, a majority of the members so represented may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice. At such adjourned meeting at which a quorum shall be present or represented, any business may be transacted which might have been transacted at the meeting as originally noticed. The members present at a duly organized meeting may continue to transact business until adjournment, notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough members to leave less than a quorum.

Section 7. Voting. Each member entitled to vote shall be entitled to one vote upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of members. Holders of family memberships shall be entitled to a maximum of two (2) votes.

ARTICLE IV

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Section 1. General Powers. The business and affairs of the corporation shall be managed by its Board of Trustees.

Section 2. Number, Tenure and Qualifications. There shall be not less than five (5) nor more than twenty-five (25) trustees of the corporation. The number of trustees shall be set initially by the incorporators and may thereafter be changed by the members. At each annual meeting one-third (1/3) of the trustees shall be elected for a three (3) year term; provided, however, that the members elected to the initial board of trustees shall be elected so that approximately one-third (1/3) of the board shall serve a one (1) year term, one third (1/3) a two (2) year term and one-third (1/3) a three (3) year term. Each elected trustee shall serve until the next succeeding annual meeting and until his or her successor shall have been elected and qualified or until such trustee's death, resignation or removal in the manner provided hereinafter. Trustees need not be residents of Rhode Island but shall be members of the corporation. No trustee may serve more than three (3) ~~two (2)~~ full consecutive terms as trustee; subject to, however, the provision that trustees elected prior to May 1, 2013 are permitted to complete their terms.

Section 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Trustees may be filled by vote of the ~~trustees~~members. A trustee elected to fill a vacancy shall be elected for the unexpired term of such trustee's predecessor in office.

Section 4. Removal. The members may, at any meeting called for the purpose, remove any elected trustee with or without cause by vote of the members. A trustee failing to attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the Board may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the trustees.

Section 5. Resignations. Any trustee may resign, at any time by giving written notice to the Board of Trustees or the President. The resignation shall take effect at the time specified in the notice, and, unless otherwise specified in such notice, the acceptance of the resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Section 6. Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held not less than two (2) times per year. The Board of Trustees shall provide by resolution the time and place for holding of these and additional regular meetings without notice other than such resolution.

Section 7. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board of Trustees may be called by or at the request of the President or any two trustees. The person or persons authorized to call special meetings of the Board of Trustees may fix the manner and the place for holding any special meeting of the Board of Trustees called by them.

Section 8. Notice. Notice of any special meeting shall be given at least five (5) days previous thereto by-written notice delivered personally or mailed, by regular mail or electronic means, to each trustee at the trustee's address, or by telegram. If ~~mailed by regular mail~~, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail, so addressed, with postage prepaid thereon. If by electronic means, notice shall be deemed delivered when transmitted. If

Comment [A7]: This was in the original/1983 version of the bylaws and was removed, though unclear if by vote or by accident. It is suggested that this be discussed. Most organizations have a "sunset clause" that limits number of terms to ensure turnover and "new blood" to enter the mix. It is generally OK for someone to return to the board after a 1-term hiatus. The 2-term limit generally does not include any partial terms (e.g., replacing a trustee that left the board).

Comment [mrb8]: Agree, but suggest a 3 term limit given the learning curve associated with serving as a trustee, and also suggest a 'grandfathering' provision.

Comment [A9]: This is/was how the original/1983 version of the bylaws read. This should be discussed and altered accordingly. However, since members elect trustees at the annual meeting, a correct interpretation of procedure would be that the board fill a vacancy and then have it approved at annual meeting; this is how it was done historically.

Comment [mrb10]: Agree, however noting that the new trustee would not be entitled to vote until elected by members.

Comment [A11]: This wouldn't make sense; if they are entitled to fill a vacant position they should be able to vote, otherwise, why fill at all? Without power of vote, they are just a member sitting in on a board meeting, which all are welcome to do. I would think the power of vote to be important for maintaining a quorum, etc.

Comment [A12]: This sentence was not in the original bylaws/1983 version. I presume this was voted in by the membership, but don't have record of that. I vaguely remember the dialog around this, and it is a useful addition to consider if it was not "officially" adopted into the bylaws.

Comment [mrb13]: Not sure.

notice is given by telegram, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when the telegram is delivered to the telegraph company.

Section 9. Quorum. A majority of the trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board of Trustees, but if less than such majority is present at a meeting, a majority of the trustees present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.

Section 10. Manner of Acting. The act or decision done or made by the majority of the trustees present at a meeting duly held at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Trustees, unless a greater number is required by law or by the Articles of Association. Meetings of trustees may be held by means of a telephone conference circuit, and connection to such circuit shall constitute presence at such meeting.

Section 11. Action Without a Meeting. Any action that may be taken by the Board of Trustees at a meeting may be taken without a meeting if a consent or consents in writing, setting forth the action so to be taken, shall be signed before or after such action by all of the trustees. Such written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board.

Section 12. Presumption of Assent. A trustee of the corporation who is present at a meetings of the Board of Trustees at which action on any corporate matter is taken shall be presumed to have assented to the action taken unless his or her dissent shall be entered in the minutes of the meeting or unless the trustee shall file a written dissent to such action with the person acting as the secretary of the meeting before the adjournment thereof or shall forward such dissent by registered mail to the Secretary of the corporation immediately after the adjournment of the meeting. Such right to dissent shall not apply to a trustee who voted in favor of such action.

Section 13. Prohibition of Compensation. Trustees may not be paid compensation for performance of their duties as trustees. No trustee shall be precluded from serving the corporation in any other capacity and receiving compensation therefore.

Section 14. Executive and Other Committees. The Board of Trustees may, by resolution, designate from among its members such committees as it may determine, each of which, to the extent provided in such resolution, shall have and may exercise all of the authority of the Board of Trustees, provided that no such committee shall have the authority of the Board of Trustees in reference to amending the Articles of Association, adopting a plan of merger or consolidation, recommending the sale, lease, exchange, or other disposition of all or substantially all the property and assets of the corporation otherwise than in the regular course of its business, recommending a voluntary dissolution of the corporation or a revocation thereof, or amending the Bylaws of the corporation. The designation of an Executive Committee shall require a majority of the full Board of Trustees. The designation of any such committee and the delegation thereto of authority shall not operate to relieve the Board of Trustees, or any member thereof, of any responsibility imposed by law.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

Section 1. Number. The officers of the corporation shall be a President, one or more Vice-Presidents (the number thereof to be determined by the Board of Trustees/members), a Secretary,

Comment [A14]: Should this be amended to reflect the potential for conference, Skype, etc. to reach a quorum or is this again assumed given today's technology? If we can presume it so, then let's not change the wording.

Comment [mrb15]: I don't have a strong preference here; we have operated believing that someone attending by phone conference can "attend" to make quorum, but have never discussed Skyping.

Comment [A16]: May need updating to reflect modern communications possibilities.

Comment [A17]: May need updating to reflect modern communications possibilities.

Comment [A18]: May need updating to reflect modern communications possibilities, particularly delivery via email vs. post.

Comment [mrb19]: I see no need to change as registered mail still serves a purpose in court --it is an accepted form of "service" of a complaint in some circumstances. I like leaving the formality of registered mail because it ensures a means to prove delivery.

Comment [A20]: This sentence is stated this way in the original/1983 version, but the intent as stated seems odd and would mean that we have habitually been in violation of the bylaws in this matter, and that the Exec Comm would be too large to be useful and would be a hodgepodge of people; it also does not specify how that majority would be arrived at; I would suggest that it should read "...a majority VOTE of the full..." as I think that logic would suggest this was the original intent.

Comment [mrb21]: Because the sentence starts "the designation of" (and not the composition of), I interpret this to mean that a majority vote of the full Board is required to designate an Executive Committee. I don't believe that deviates from our current practice, does it? I would leave, but don't feel strongly either way.

Comment [A22]: Original/1983 version of the bylaws states it this way; same for next sentence. If officers are elected by the board, then this makes sense. However, see next section as there appears to be both confusion and possible conflict.

Comment [mrb23]: I believe our practice has been to have the Trustees determine the number of vice presidents and any other officers. Thus I would leave as is.

and a Treasurer, and such other officers as may be deemed necessary by the ~~Board of Trustees~~members. No person shall serve in more than one office at any time.

Section 2. Election and Term of Office. The officers of the corporation shall be elected annually by the Board of Trustees at the first meeting of the Trustees following at the annual meeting of the members. If the election of officers shall not be held at such meeting, such election shall be held as soon thereafter as is practicable. Each officer shall hold office until his or her successor shall have been duly elected and shall have qualified or until such officer's death or resignation or removal in the manner hereinafter provided.

Comment [A24]: This is confusing wording, and is how it appears in the original/1983 version; it appears that "at" should likely be removed as it appears to be a typo in the original, or is there some legal meaning to this wording?

Comment [mrb25]: Agree to remove "at"

Section 3. Removal. Any officer or agent may be removed by the members or the trustees whenever in their judgment the best interests of the corporation will be served thereby, but such removal shall be without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the person so removed. Election or appointment of an officer or agent shall not of itself create contract rights.

Section 4. Resignations. Any officer or agent may resign at any time by giving written notice to the President or Secretary. The resignation shall take effect at the time specified in the notice, and, unless otherwise specified in such notice, the acceptance of the resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Section 5. Vacancies. A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification or otherwise, may be filled in the manner prescribed in these Bylaws for election or appointment to the office. In the case of a vacancy in any of the offices specifically designated in Section I of this Article V, such vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term.

Section 6. President. The President shall be the principal executive officer of the corporation and, subject to the direction and under the supervision of the Board of Trustees, shall have general charge of the business, affairs and property of the corporation, and control over its officers, agents and employees. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Trustees. The President shall execute, on behalf of the corporation, any deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts, or other instruments which the Board of Trustees have authorized to be executed, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board of Trustees or by these Bylaws to some other officer or agent of the corporation, or shall be required by law to be otherwise signed or executed. The President shall do and perform all duties incident to the office of President and such other duties as may be assigned to the President by these Bylaws or by the Board of Trustees.

Section 7. Vice-Presidents. In the absence of the President or in the event of the President's death, inability or refusal to act, the Vice-President (or in the event there is more than one Vice-President, the Vice-Presidents in the order designated at the time of their election, or in the absence of any designation, then in the order of their election) shall perform the duties of the President, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President. A Vice-President shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to such Vice-President by the President or by the Board of Trustees.

Section 8. Secretary. The Secretary shall: (a) keep the minutes of the proceeding of the Board of Trustees in one or more books provided for that purpose; (b) see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws or as required by law; (c) be custodian of the corporate records and of the seal of the corporation and see that the seal of the corporation is affixed to all documents the execution of which on behalf of the corporation under its seal is duly authorized; (d) keep a record of the post office address of each trustee which shall be furnished to

the Secretary by such trustee; and (e) in general perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to the Secretary by the President or the Board of Trustees.

Section 9. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall: (a) have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of the corporation; (b) receive and give receipts for moneys due and payable to the corporation from any source whatsoever, and deposit all such moneys in the name of the corporation in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of Article VI of these Bylaws; and (c) in general perform all of the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to the Treasurer by the President or by the Board of Trustees. If required by the Board of Trustees, the Treasurer shall give a bond for the faithful discharge of his or her duties in such sum and with such surety or sureties as the Board of Trustees shall determine.

ARTICLE VI

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Section 1. Appointment and Removal. The Board of Trustees shall appoint an Executive Director, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees. Appointment and removal shall require a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Trustees then in office. In the event of his or her removal, the Executive Director shall be entitled to ten (10) days notice of the meeting at which such removal is to be voted on and shall be provided an opportunity to appear before and be heard at the meeting at which such vote is taken.

Section 2. Powers. The Executive Director shall attend to and be responsible for the day to day administration of the affairs of the corporation, subject only to the general supervision and control of the President, the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees, and shall have such supervisory and managerial powers in the conduct of the business and affairs of the corporation as shall be conferred on him or her by the Board from time to time or as shall be delegated to the Executive Director with the consent of the Board.

Section 3. Compensation. The Executive Director shall be entitled to reasonable compensation for his or her services as shall be established from time to time by the Executive Committee. The Executive Director shall not be a member of the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee, or an officer of the corporation.

ARTICLE VII

CONTRACTS, LOANS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS AND BUDGET

Section 1. Contracts. The Board of Trustees may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the corporation, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

Section 2. Loans. No loans shall be contracted on behalf of the corporation and no evidences of indebtedness shall be issued in its name unless authorized by a resolution of the Board of Trustees. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

Section 3. Checks, Drafts, or other Similar Orders. All checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the

Comment [A26]: Does "shall" imply that we MUST have an ED? Is there any reason to temper this with "from time to time" or "as appropriate" or "may" or something similar? Not sure if shall is a potential hindrance if under some circumstance it was beneficial not to have an ED.

Comment [mrb27]: I agree it seems to imply that appointment of an ED is required, and do get your point, however, I do not see the purpose in changing the language without a pressing need at this point.

corporation, shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the corporation and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Trustees.

Section 4. Deposits. All funds of the corporation not otherwise employed shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the corporation in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the Board of Trustees may select.

Section 5. Budget. No later than one month before the end of the fiscal year, the Executive Director, in consultation with the Executive Committee, shall prepare a proposed budget for the next fiscal year, and present it to the Board of Trustees for their approval.

Comment [A28]: This is a manner of work for day-to-day actions and does not have a place in the bylaws; it does not any legal function on operations. This need not be in the bylaws and removal is suggested.

Comment [A29]: This entry is not in the original/1983 version.

Comment [mrb30]: I agree with your comments but again do not see a pressing need to change at this time.

ARTICLE VIII

INDEMNIFICATION

Section 1. Indemnification Authority Third Party Suits. The corporation shall, to the extent legally permissible and only to the extent that the status of the corporation as a corporation exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code is not affected thereby, have the power to indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative by reason of the fact that such person is or was a trustee, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a trustee, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorney's fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding if such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful, except that no indemnification shall be made in respect of any criminal action or proceeding as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be guilty unless and only to the extent that the court in which such action or proceeding was brought shall determine upon application that despite adjudication of guilt, in view of all of the circumstances of the case, such person is entitled to indemnity for such expenses or fines which the court shall deem proper. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of *nolo contendere* or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

Section 2. Indemnification - Determination Procedure. Any indemnification under Section I (unless ordered by a court) shall be made by the corporation only as authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification of a trustee, officer, employee or agent is proper in the circumstances because (a) such person has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Section I, and (b) the financial condition of the corporation is such that indemnification will not have substantial adverse effect on the corporation's operations. Such determination shall be made (1) by the Board of Trustees by a majority vote or a quorum of trustees who were not parties to such action, suit or proceeding, or (2) if such a quorum is not obtainable, or, even if attainable, a quorum of disinterested trustees so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion.

Section 3. Indemnification - Advance Payments. Expenses incurred in defending a civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding may be paid by the corporation in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding as authorized in the manner provided in Section 2 upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the trustee, officer, employee or agent to repay such amount unless it shall ultimately be determined that such person is entitled to be indemnified by the corporation as authorized in this Article.

Section 4. Indemnification Rights - Non Exclusivity. The indemnification provided by the Article shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those indemnified may be entitled under any bylaw, agreement, vote, of disinterested trustees or otherwise, both as to action in such person's official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office, and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a trustee, officer, employee or agent and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such a person.

Section 5. Indemnification - Insurance. The Board of Trustees may authorize the corporation to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a trustee, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a trustee, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against any liability asserted against such person and incurred by such person in any such capacity, or arising out of such person's status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify such person against such liability under the provisions of this Article.

ARTICLE IX

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the corporation shall be the calendar year.

Section 2. Corporate Seal. The corporation shall have a corporate seal which shall be circular in form and shall have inscribed thereon the name of the corporation, the state of incorporation and the year of incorporation.

Section 3. Waiver of Notice. Whenever any notice is required to be given to any person under the provisions of these Bylaws or under the provisions of the Articles of Association or under the provisions of applicable law, a waiver thereof in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice. The attendance of a person at a meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except when a person attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened. Neither the business to be transacted at, nor the purpose of, any regular or special meeting of the Board of Trustees need be specified in any written waiver of notice of such meeting.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments. These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed and new bylaws may be adopted by the members at any regular or special meeting of the members (provided that the notice of such meeting states the proposed change in the Bylaws).

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**WOOD-PAWCATUCK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS APPROVED MAY 25, 2006**

ARTICLE IV, SECTION 3

ABSTRACT: *This provision authorizes establishment of a new Board Development Committee to implement formal procedures for acquiring and vetting the names of prospective candidates for Board membership to ensure vacancies are filled in an orderly and considered manner in accordance with the needs of the Board.*

Section 3 - Board Development Committee. The Board of Trustees (the Board) shall annually establish a Board Development Committee (BDC) consisting of the vice president as chair and two trustees.

- a. The BDC shall meet as necessary throughout the year to develop and maintain for its use a list of candidates for Board membership, with its sources including, but not limited to: lists of WPWA members, donors, volunteers, and stakeholders; lists of members of academic, business and other professional communities, and trustee referrals.
- b. The BDC shall pre-screen names of candidates in accordance with the needs of the Board as identified by the Board Matrix (a document published by the Board for this purpose) and actual and anticipated vacancies. The list shall be reviewed annually by the BDC to ensure it is current and adequate. The BDC shall ensure that the Board Matrix is current and valid.
- c. At the January Board meeting, the BDC shall recommend candidates to the Board in compliance with the aforementioned requirements. At its March meeting, the Board, after vetting the BDC's nominees, shall specify the candidate(s) it proposes to nominate to the membership for election at the forthcoming annual meeting and shall direct the president or his/her designee to promptly extend the appropriate invitation(s).
- d. This procedure must be followed for the recruitment of new Board members for election by the membership except by three-quarters majority vote of the Board members present.

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ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4

ABSTRACT. *This amendment ensures that Board vacancies are filled according to the new procedures.*

Section 4. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Trustees may be filled by vote of the trustees with a candidate vetted according to the provisions of Section 3 b. A trustee elected to fill a vacancy shall be elected for the unexpired term of such trustee's predecessor in office.

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**WOOD-PAWCATUCK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS APPROVED MAY 21, 2009**

Comment [A31]: This is confusing, as there already is a Section 3 – Vacancies; the numbering of bylaws is now incorrect as listed, but see below.

Comment [A32]: This is a manner of work for day-to-day actions and does not have a place in the bylaws; removal is suggested.

Comment [mrb33]: I agree Art. IV, Sections 3 and 4 should be deleted because: 1) they are confusing, 2) our practice has not always been consistent with these requirements, 3) we have discussed an alternate means of monitoring the purpose and activities of all committees, and 4) I agree this level of detail is not typical of a bylaw. You might discuss with Dante who told me he drafted these amendments.

Comment [A34]: This already exists as Section 3 – Vacancies; Suggest removal of BDC amendment as noted above, and restoration of this Article & Section to that set forth in the original bylaws.

Comment [mrb35]: I would delete, see above.

ARTICLE IV, SECTION 15

ABSTRACT. *This provision allows past Trustees of the WPWA to remain active in the leadership of the organization but are not constrained to participating at the level of active Trustees. Emeritus Trustees are an important element of the corporate memory of the organization.*

Section 15. Emeritus Trustees. Past Trustees are eligible to be elected as Emeritus Trustees of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association by nomination and majority approval of the Trustees. The term of Emeritus Trustee is three (3) years and may be renewed. Emeritus Trustees may attend and participate in meetings of the Trustees, serve on committees, and advise the officers and staff of the WPWA. They do not have voting privileges and their attendance at meetings does not count towards making quorum.

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WOOD-PAWCATUCK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS APPROVED MAY 17, 2012

ARTICLE IV, SECTION 15

ABSTRACT. *The provision “The term of Emeritus Trustee is three (3) years and may be renewed.” is counter intelligent to the purpose of Emeritus status. Therefore the consensus of the board and the members at the first time of need for renewals is to remove this stipulation.*

Section 15. Emeritus Trustees. Past Trustees are eligible to be elected as Emeritus Trustees of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association by nomination and majority approval of the Trustees. Emeritus Trustees may attend and participate in meetings of the Trustees, serve on committees, and advise the officers and staff of the WPWA. They do not have voting privileges and their attendance at meetings does not count towards making quorum.

Comment [A36]: This should be inserted into the current set of bylaws in the proper Article / Section.

Comment [mrb37]: OK

NOTES

1. It is suggested that the bylaws be corrected as considered appropriate after review of original vs. current versions.
2. It is suggested that the Article.Section edits and removals as suggested in margin notes be discussed and agreed upon and appropriate changes made.
3. It is suggested that all amendments to the bylaws be made in the actual text of the bylaws, and that all such amendments be noted by Footnote stating purpose and context for change and the date/Annual Meeting that such change was approved by the membership.
4. As a nonprofit, we should file bylaw changes on Form 990 (already done for IRS annually?)
5. It is suggested that any and all changes to the bylaws in the future be rigorously challenged regarding the need to change the bylaws, and that any such change is being made because it is necessary to address legal and/or issues associated with incorporation; any suggested bylaw change that is or can be considered to be associated with “manner of conducting day-to-day business” or other such routine affairs of the organization or board, including committees and subcommittees, should be incorporated into appropriate organizational practices and NOT the bylaws.

EXPLANATION OF BYLAW COMMENTS AND SUGGESTED CHANGES

Page 1. Article I. Section 3. Non-Profit Status. This change should simply be approved; there appears to be no need for further discussion.

Page 2. Article III. Section 2. Annual Meeting. We should leave this as is, per Laura's suggestion; there appears to be no need for further discussion.

Page 2. Article III. Section 4. Place of Meeting. We should leave this as is, per Laura's suggestion; there appears to be no need for further discussion.

Page 2. Article III. Section 5. Notice of Meeting. We should make edits according to Laura's suggestions to update this to reflect modern-day communications options.

Page 3. Article VI. Section 2. Number, Tenure and Qualifications. The board has discussed, and agreed, that term limits should be instituted. We need to discuss and agree upon what the length of term will be, and then insert that into this bylaw section. I disagree that we need to include the "grandfathering" statement given that it is a one-time occurrence and that we can adequately handle that outside of the bylaws by setting up a "sunset" scenario to adjust board composition in the most suitable fashion for organizational efficiency. So, this also needs to be discussed and acted upon appropriately, pending direction agreed upon taking.

Page 3. Article VI. Section 3. Vacancies. We should make this change—from "trustee" to "members" as suggested. However, we need to discuss whether or not to include the "no power of vote" suggested by Laura, with which I don't agree, and come to a decision on this issue.

Page 3. Article VI. Section 4. Removal. We will need to discuss and make a decision here, though I would recommend we leave it as is as it leaves the option to do so, and not mandating it.

Page 3. Article VI. Section 8. Notice. We should make edits according to Laura's suggestions to update this to reflect modern-day communications options.

Page 4. Article VI. Section 9. Quorum. We need to discuss this and make a decision, but I would suggest we leave it as is; I would presume that Skype would be synonymous with phone, and it may not be wise to insert Skype since it may not be around forever. It may be better to simply leave it loosely defined.

Page 4. Article VI. Section 10. Quorum; Section 11. Action Without a Meeting; Section 12. Presumption of Assent. I would suggest we just leave all these alone given Laura's comments regarding phone, mail, etc. from this and other previous comments. There does not seem any pressing need to change these sections.

Page 4. Article VI. Section 14. Executive and Other Committees. Given Laura's comments I would suggest we leave this as is.

Page 4. Article V. Section 1. Officers. Given Laura's comment I would suggest we leave it as is.

Page 5. Article V. Section 2. Election and Term of Office. We should follow Laura's suggestion and remove "at" and I don't think this would need any further discussion.

Page 6. Article VI. Section 1. Appointment and Removal. This needs discussion and a decision. Laura agrees with the proposed change, but sees no pressing reason to do so. I would suggest that if we are making changes in the bylaws and bringing them to the membership for ratification, then we ought to include this one as well and make the change before it does become pressing, then forcing us to hold a special meeting of the membership to make a simply bylaw change.

Page 7. Article VI. Section 5. Budget. This needs discussion and a decision. Laura agrees with the proposed change, but sees no pressing reason to do so. I would suggest that if we are making changes in the bylaws and bringing them to the membership for ratification, then we ought to include this one as well and make the change before it does become pressing, then forcing us to hold a special meeting of the membership to make a simply bylaw change.

Page 9. AMENDMENTS. Article IV. Section 3. Board Development Committee. This needs discussion and a decision. I would suggest we follow Laura's advice that this section be removed from the bylaws, and the same for the following Article IV. Section 4. Vacancies.

Page 10. Article VI. Section 15. Emeritus Trustees. This is simply moving this section to its proper place in the bylaws. In doing so, and for all future amendments, including those we might make at the upcoming annual meeting, I suggest they be marked with an Endnote containing the date of ratification by the membership, and perhaps a brief summary of the reason for the change.