

2015 WPA Plan of Work *Amended 2/17/15*

BLUE = Update

GREEN = Acknowledgment Note

PURPLE = Restored to the WP

Water Quality & Quantity *Cool Clean Abundant Water*

Strategic Plan Directive

- 1) *Monitoring in support of RI Dept. Environmental Management and US Environmental Protection Agency efforts*
 - *Add temperature to data collected*
- 2) *Advocate for responsible water management*
 - *Focus on RI Water Resources Board, RI Dept. Environmental Management and private and municipal water suppliers*
 - *Consider the Chipuxet watershed as a case study for educational purposes*
- 3) *Flood Resiliency Plan*
 - *Run off management*

2015 Work Plan Implementation

- 1) Conduct 28th year of WQ Monitoring (32 sites) – **Staff**
8 short term sites were eliminated to reduce the 2015 analysis cost.

Collaborate with URI Watershed Watch to create temperature reporting database – **Staff**
Application to New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NBEP) grant for \$4K to fund this with \$500 for WPA was declined.

Fundraise for annual \$12K and advocate for future State source to fund – **FD Committee**
The Board and Staff discussed and approved a plan to implement an overhaul to our WQ Program with or without outside funding.
W. Galloway serving as board liaison to staff and volunteer effort toward 2015 WQ Program Assessment. Total anticipated cost \$8,000. Application for \$2,500 from RIRC to support staff's time approved. FD Com conducted on-line only FR campaign that netted appx \$1,500. Staff working with funder of Flood Mgt Plan to reprogram project contingency funding to support the remaining \$5,000 in cost.

- 2) Build capacity toward a 2016 campaign to protect drinking water resources. The board has identified a need to increase its capacity to properly and meaningfully address this concern. A workshop will be held in late 2015 upon the return of Tom Boving to determine the proper course of action in 2016. - **Board**

- 3) *Flood Resiliency Plan Development (2 yr initiative Sandy Grant)*
Contract for funding and consultants and complete 60% of the two year project – **Staff**
As the project evolves, the ED will identify and inform the board of any opportunities to engage in outreach activities that have a tie to climate change. - **Board**
Project is underway, all contracts in place, on schedule and under budget. \$18,000 allocated to A-133 Audit is no longer needed due to recent increase in federal spending

threshold (\$750K/yr) which this project combined with other federal funding to WPWA will not exceed.

Storm Water Runoff - Continue to assist NEMO in Storm Water Education outreach via WPWA Newsletter Articles – **Staff**

Unclear how this will weave with new Digital Newsletter

Cooperation with RIDEM and the Watershed Municipalities on a Storm Water Runoff plan is part of the overall Flood Resiliency Mgt. Plan. – **Staff**

Difficulty engaging a committed representative from Westerly and a few lesser important municipalities to the Flood Mgt Plan team

Biodiversity Thriving Native Plants and Animals

Strategic Plan Directive

- 1) Support “RhodeMap RI” and “State Wildlife Action Plan” (SWAP) projects, and Rhode Island Natural History Survey activities
- 2) Finish dam removal and rehabilitation in the watershed
 - Engage as a consultant and/or support role
- 3) Invasive species

2015 Work Plan Implementation

- 1) Advocate for the RI Natural History Survey, “RhodeMap RI”, and “State Wildlife Action Plan”
Discuss and flesh out what and how to accomplish effort in 2015 - **Board**

- 2) *White Rock Dam Removal* -Support RI TNC in a funded capacity to successfully remove the White Rock Dam in 2015. – **Staff**

Project is behind schedule but has accomplished significant milestones of progress (permits, NEPA, etc) and is now in its 3rd week of construction. WPWA was in talks to provide paddle outfitting services to TNC for dignitaries in June. TNC decided to tour the project from the land. WPWA offered a paddle to the public in June to highlight the project but it was canceled due to lack of attendance.

Upper Pawcatuck - Complete and closeout the Upper Pawcatuck Fish Passage Projects and support the federal and state agencies outreach efforts to promote the projects. – **Staff**

This project is now reached final completion and herring were observed passing the sites in April. Final report to TNC-NOAA partnership was completed and accepted, allowing release of final grant payment of \$23K to WPWA.

E.D. is assisting Tom Boving and a visiting master’s hydrology student with the drafting of a paper on the project. URI will feature the restoration success in the Spring 2016 edition of Quadangles.

An in-depth internal audit of the entire project extending back to 2003 was conducted. The audit identified that just over \$20,000 of Champlin Capital Revolving Funds were spent on the Feasibility Study with no supporting revenue source prior to this E.D.’s tenure. Recent attempts to secure funding for already-completed-work was denied. Therefore, WPWA will

be responsible for repaying the fund in full. E.D. and Treasurer will present alternatives for repayment to the board in late 2015.

3) Ponds & Lakes

Rivers & Streams

Complete final year of Purple Loosestrife abatement on the Upper Pawcatuck – **Staff**

Completed

Land

Boulder Farm?

Estuary Healthy Saltwater Environment

Strategic Plan Directive

- 1) Partner with and assist Save The Bay South Coast Center and other conservation organizations

2015 Work Plan Implementation

- 1) Establish a meaningful relationship and ongoing dialogue with Save the Bay South Coast, Clean Up Sounds & Harbors, and Watch Hill Conservancy for the purpose of supporting their ongoing efforts to improve the health of Little Narragansett Bay. Further discussion is needed to determine exactly what that support and WPWA involvement will be. – **Board**

Westerly Land Trust was/is in the process of reconstituting the collaborative environmental working group previously organized by Save the Bay. Board allocated WPWA participation to staff. No mention or inclusion of WPWA in Save the Bay's recent press event highlighting environmental concerns in Little Narragansett Bay.

Access Plentiful Access to Recreation

Strategic Plan Directive

- 1) Partner with access land owners as appropriate
 - o RI Dept. Environmental Management is very active in this area
- 2) Maintenance of access ways

2015 Work Plan Implementation

- 1) Focus attention toward planning the rehabilitation and potential for creation of access areas that WPWA owns. Provide baseline unfunded support for other entities who provide access to fresh water. - **Staff**

\$120K of remaining \$158K Champlin Revolving Funds approved for 2015 Engineering Permit & Design and 2016 Construction of WPWA owned Pawcatuck River Jay Cronin Access Area rehab. WPWA applied to Kimball Fnd for \$10,000 to support WPWA staff time which cannot be funded by Champlin.

WPWA assisting RIDEM with 2015 Barberville portage path rehab set to begin in Aug.

WPWA Assisting RI TNC with creation of a new access area on the Pawcatuck River at Kings Factory Rd.

2) Continue WPWA tree removal maintenance of the Wood River and Upper Pawcatuck River for safe boat passage. Develop & implement communication strategies that inform users that we maintain these river sections for them. – **Staff**

Application to RIDEM Trail Advisory Committee for tree removal funding approved for \$3,000. Contractor and WPWA staff to begin in mid August. No progress on setting up a public outreach effort yet. Proposal for additional \$3,000 made to Kimball Fdn., awaiting response.

3) Wild & Scenic Study Phase (3yrs) will be initiated immediately under the direction of the WPWA Program Director. A cooperative agreement with the National Park Service will be negotiated and authorized by June. Support funding will be sought from URI's Coastal Institute. Work will not begin in earnest until Fall due to staff constraints. – **Staff**

Kick Off meeting with NPS and partners held at WPWA on 3/4. Funding agreement for \$10,000 now in place. Funds to be expended by end of federal fiscal year (Oct 2015) at which time the agreement will be amended to add money for federal fiscal year 2015-16.

Access Notes:

WPWA invested a significant amount of time responding to multiple public comment periods for Freshwater Fishing Regulation 3.16.1 & 3.16.2 which requires paddlers who are not fishing to undergo a lengthy permit process. This has significant impact on WPWA programs including those we launch from our campus. RIDEM's response to the public's opposition and possible regulation amendments are expected in late August.

Education & Outreach *Helping People Care for the Watershed*

Strategic Plan Directive

- 1) *School curriculum*
- 2) *Member programs*
- 3) *Improved public awareness*
- 4) *Boards and commissions*

2015 Work Plan Implementation

- 1) *Educational Resource Development - **Staff***

*In-Classroom - **Staff***

10 In-Classroom Watershed Science Programs Offered by WPWA

This effort has been abandoned for 2015 due to inability to secure funding.

Instead, watershed models, waders, boats, and gear loaned to select local schools

*WPWA **Outdoor Education - Staff***

10 School Groups

10 scheduled, 1 given for free, others are paying making this effort profitable

10 Programs for Other Groups (Operation Military Kids, Smile, Etc.)

14 scheduled, (11 attributed to Wheeler School) all are paying making this effort profitable. Operation Military Kids offered for free. Seeking \$3,000 in support of OMK from Kimball Fdn.

2) **32 Recreational Programs in 2015 - Staff**

- 3 Full Moon Paddles (Led by Volunteers) **2 of 3 Completed**
- 3 Saturday Paddles **1 canceled (no signups) 1 Completed, 1 Dropped**
- 2 Kayak Instruction Classes **1 Completed, 1 Scheduled. Staff now test marketing Private Lessons which will net more money.**
- 4 Southern New England Paddles Training Nights (Led by Volunteers) **12 offered. Proving to assist in membership signups so participants can use WPWA boats at the SNEP paddles.**
- 4 Bioluminescent Paddles **All slots filled, members allowed advanced registration. 88 slots (weather dependent) = \$1,500+ in revenue.**
- 4 Hikes **2 Completed, 2 more unscheduled but possible**
- 4 Geocaching (Led by Volunteers) **Reduced to 2, low to no attendance**
- 1 Earth Day Cleanup (12 river access sites) **Partnered with TU, Completed**
- 1 Map & Compass Workshop (Co-Sponsored by Narragansett AMC) **Completed**
- 1 Family Fun Fishing Event **CANCELED, TU is doing instead**
- 6 Fly Tying & Fly Fishing Programs (Led by Volunteers) **Reduced to 5 - Completed Added 1 Ice Walk and 1 Free Vernal Pool Exploration (School Break)**

Program Notes:

Direct flyer advertising of free WPWA School Vacation programs netted next to no students (600+ Richmond & Hope Valley Elementary Students) To be dropped unless more attractive programs can be offered.

Newsletter WPWA's quarterly newsletter will be redesigned in 2015 and moved to a digital platform supported by our new web-based Bloomerang membership relations program. Those members who request to continue receiving a paper copy will be afforded that option for a limited time and that production and distribution will be achieved entirely in-house. The newsletter will follow a more Donor Centric format as recommended by fundraising professionals. – **Staff**

Staff has made strides toward digital formatting and the first bi-monthly installment will be put out in September. Staff is working with the Fund Development Committee to include Business Sponsorships. The final paper edition of Watershed was sent in late July and focused on current major programs, 2014's giving, and Betty Salomon's founding role in the organization.

Annual Meeting (Saturday May 30th 2015) 1-4pm

Overall a successful event. Despite sending over 600 flyers to Richmond and Hope Valley elementary students advertising the Raptor Demonstration and free kayaking, attendance by children was extremely low. Despite this, we had a packed house of adults for the show. Expanding in the future will be difficult because of the building's 32 person maximum occupancy restriction. Future program offering(s) should be based outside to allow for higher attendance –Staff & Board

3) *Freelancers* WPWA will implement a new program targeted at increasing the number and diversity of our programs without burden to staff. Freelance WPWA representatives will be trained by WPWA staff to organize and implement programs (paddles, hikes, bird watching,

snowshoeing, etc) under our name and insurance. These freelancers will be paid through a profit sharing agreement with WPWA. – **Staff**

This continues to potentially be delayed until 2016 due to Wild & Scenic driven staffing constraints. However, all insurance and payroll/staffing questions pertinent to administering the effort have been answered.

Welcome Center By Spring of 2015 the WPWA Welcome Center will be completely functional and outfitted for Education. Set operational hours will be posted and followed and existing staff will be utilized as needed to uphold the schedule. – **Staff**

The Center is open and fully functional on an As-Needed basis. Due to funding constraints, a dedicated staffer could not be hired and set hours could not be accomplished. Staff, along with J. Mackenzie and the Membership Development Committee will establish a new staffing plan in the 2016 Work Plan.

Urban Rivers Project at National River Rally in New Mexico Denise will give a presentation at this national conference in support of the recently completed EPA grant funded community fish sampling project in Providence. Her attendance is contingent upon her ability to fund the travel and lodging. The financial burden to WPWA will be for staff time only. – **Staff**

Denise attended at her own expense, with the exception of \$250 and was paid for a full day's work each day she was at the conference.

4) Serve on RIEEA Board, Science mentor for GEMS-Net, RI Envirothon participation, **RIRC Board, RI Trail Advisory Committee, SK Planning Board, Richmond Land Trust Board** – **Staff**

What WPWA Board participation on other boards and commissions should be reflected here?

Solicit board for a list of their service on boards and commissions that align with WPWA's mission.