

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**

Collaborate with URI Watershed Watch to create temperature reporting database – **Staff**
Applying for New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEP) grant for \$4K to fund this with \$500 for WPA. Remaining funds to Ed Poyer for consulting services. Services also include production of GIS watershed mapping of temperature.

Fundraise for annual \$12K and advocate for future State source to fund – **FD Committee**
The Board and Staff will discuss and possibly implement an overhaul to our WQ Program.
W. Galloway to serve as board liaison to the staff's effort toward 2015 WQ Program Assessment. Applying for \$2500 from RIRC to support staff's time. Will be done with or without outside funding.

- 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.**

- 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

Cooperative agreement for funding in place. Contracting with consulting firm of Fuss & O'Neill in place. Kick off meeting with 12 core committee members scheduled for 3/26. Outreach to begin thereafter.

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

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

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. WPWA in talks to provide paddle outfitting services to TNC for dignataries in June. WPWA providing a paddle to the public in June to highlight the project.

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**

Behind Schedule – Final report owed to TNC in order to release final grant payment of \$23K.

- 3) *Ponds & Lakes*

Rivers & Streams

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

Land

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**

Access Plentiful Access to Recreation

Strategic Plan Directive

- 1) *Partner with access land owners as appropriate*
 - *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**

WPWA Assisting RIDEM with 2015 Barbersville portage path rehab. Potential for remaining \$150K Champlin Revolving Funds to fund 2015 planning and 2016 implementation of WPWA owned Cronin Access Area rehab.

- 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 due 5/8/. Grant approval will be known on 5/18. Contractor staged to begin work in July. No progress on outreach effort yet.

- 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. Agreed to delay project start to September when funding agreement is in place and WPWA/NPS staff has capacity.

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

It is possible that this will be restored if funding from an alternate source (cited in budget) is secured during the 3rd Quarter.

10 Schools independently educate students utilizing WPWA resources

WPWA *Outdoor Education* - **Staff**

10 School Groups

6 scheduled so far

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

6 scheduled so far

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

3 Full Moon Paddles (Led by Volunteers) **Scheduled**

3 Saturday Paddles **Scheduled**

2 Kayak Instruction Classes **Scheduled**

4 Southern New England Paddles Training Nights (Led by Volunteers) **No Progress**

4 Bioluminescent Paddles **Scheduled**

4 Hikes **Scheduled**

4 Geocaching (Led by Volunteers) **Reduced to 2***

1 Earth Day Cleanup (12 river access sites) **In Progress, partnering with TU**

1 Map & Compass Workshop (Co-Sponsored by Narragansett AMC) **Scheduled**

1 Family Fun Fishing Event **CANCELED, TU is Doing**

6 Fly Tying & Fly Fishing Programs (Led by Volunteers) **In Progress**

***Added/Adding: 1 Ice Walk and 1 Free Vernal Pool Exploration (School Break)**

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 but final paper edition development has seen no progress

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

Kim Coulter has been designated as the Board liaison for the annual meeting. This year the meeting will also serve as an open house for non-members, attending members will be encouraged to bring non-member friends. From 1-2:30pm WPWA will offer a host of activities and presentations (kayaking, fishing, kids activity, etc) and spotlight two attractions such as a raptor demonstration. WPWA will offer nibbles & refreshments provided by board and staff at 2:30. The business meeting and awards will be conducted under a tent from 3-4pm. The Welcome Center will spotlight the murals donated by Christine Hannon and a sample of her other artwork. Christine will be considered for a WPWA award or board commendation for her donation valued at over \$3,000. Award winners to be discussed at 3/19 board meeting –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

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**

In Progress

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**

WPWA will contribute up to \$250 to ensure Denise can attend.

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.