

WPWA
Executive Director Report
04/18/2013

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

Outreach & Education

- Education & Recreation Grant Updates:
 - *EPA Urban Rivers*
 - Heather will be attending fish seminar in June.
 - Heather created maps of potential monitoring sites on 3 urban rivers.
 - Denise and Heather are developing protocols & training manuals.
 - *National Wildlife Foundation*
 - ECRI received a \$3,300 grant from NWF to contract with WPWA to conduct paddles for underserved populations.
 - WPWA will receive \$3000 of the \$3,300 grant.
 - Recruiting volunteers & scheduling up to 10 paddles for the spring & summer, two will be Operation Military Kids paddles.
 - *RI Rivers Council*
 - The 4th teacher training workshop will be conducted April 27. Turn out for the classes have been low. Heather & Denise taught a “Wetlands & Water Quality & a “Watershed Science” course for educators in March.
 - *RI Trail Advisory Committee*
 - WPWA will again submit a grant request (\$3,000) to fund blowdown removal on the Wood & Pawcatuck Rivers
- Education Programs:
 - Family Fun Fishing will take place 4/20/13. Jay Boyer (WPWA member & Trout Unlimited volunteer) will assist Denise.
- Winter Programs:
 - The last of 4 free 2013 birding programs guided by Roger Masse will be held on May 4th.
- Summer Programs:
 - Southern New England Paddlers (SNEP) will conduct monthly paddle training programs this summer at WPWA Campus starting in May. The \$20 fee will be donated to WPWA.
 - Check WPWA Events Calendar for all the paddling trips this summer www.wpwa.org/events.php.
 - Heather will be taking ACA Level 1 Kayak Instructor training at the end of May. Denise will be recertifying at the same time.

- RI Blueways:
 - 4 members of the RI Blueways Alliance will be conducting an “Across RI” paddle, which begins in Burrillville and ends on the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers. WPWA will host the group at our campus on Thurs, June 13 including a press event and BBQ.
 - Blueways will also conduct “Paddle 2013” for all watershed groups that developed trail maps. WPWA will conduct a paddle to highlight the Upper Wood River map on June 1.
 - Denise plans to make 3 more river trail maps that will include the entire Pawcatuck River. Grant funding will cover design & production of the maps.
- In late March Chris gave a well-received representation to the Narr. Chapter of Trout Unlimited on the progress of the Shannock Fish Passage Project.

Advocacy

- Watershed Counts will report on freshwater river water quality at the state house on April 23. Denise’s time to work on this project was covered by a two year grant from EPA.
- Wild & Scenic:
 - The Pawcatuck Protection Act may be rolled into an omnibus in the Senate which will include all proposed land bills. This may help its movement in the Senate.
 - Denise provided more information to Langevin’s office for the House Natural Resources subcommittee. Still no word on when it will be heard.
 - Denise is working with NPS to write up a preliminary report on the suitability of rivers proposed to be included in the National System.
- Chris has been assisting USFWS, RIDEM, and CTDEEP to obtain a combined \$4 million dollars in NOAA and USFWS funds to address improving fish passage on the lower Pawcatuck River.

Conservation & Preservation

- Chris continues to make progress on tasks to achieve construction at Kenyon Mill Dam in June 2013.
- WPWA will continue to monitor 40 sites for Water Quality in the watershed.
- WPWA volunteers will assist in river/water access cleanups for the 2013 Earth Day Cleanup event on 4/20 & 4/21. EZ Waste Systems, Inc. has donated a dumpster & tipping fees will be waived.

Fundraising

- St. Paul's School "Sparks" / WPWA Fundraiser:
 - All proceeds to benefit WPWA (offset annual meeting costs)
 - Chris & Heather working with Steve Crandall on partnership with St. Paul's School for a Pawcatuck River cleanup and silent auction planning & items (5/18/13), Guest Speaker Sheldon Whitehouse.
 - Heather created invitation to silent auction/reception via Constant Contact. Awaiting additional info from S. Crandall before sending to members. Event is posted on WPWA's events page.
www.wpwa.org/events.php
- FR Committee continues pursuit of potential Art Auction.
- Chris & Mal attended mandatory fundraising workshop related to Donor Centric Fundraising at RI Foundation on 4/16. Includes homework to be completed prior to peer review session. Chris will assign this work to the FR Committee to review resources and complete the assignment.

Membership

- WPWA's 30th Annual Meeting
 - Heather created & sent 30th Annual Meeting invitation via Constant Contact on 4/12/13. For more info www.wpwa.org/events.php
 - 11 registered attendees as of 4/18/13 (3 staff, 2 Board, 3 award, 3 members)
 - A detailed punchlist has been created and circulated to all board members responsible for completing tasks as well as to the Committee.
- Membership Task Force
 - C. Fox recommends creation of board/staff Taskforce for increased membership services.
 - Taskforce to further analyze and make recommendations for increased Membership Recruitment & Retention.
 - Revised 2013-2014 membership drive letter, to be discussed with Membership Task Force
- 2013-2014 membership prices changed on website, renewal letter, & membership form.
- Several people have renewed 2013-2014 membership prior to renewal letters, at increased prices, no complaints yet.
- The Watershed Winter 2013 Newsletter was sent to members on 3/29/13 (www.wpwa.org/newsletters/Newsletter_Winter_2013_COLOR.pdf)

Miscellaneous

- 2013 Champlin Foundation Grant WPWA is applying for nearly \$100K to fully renovate the Ed. Center building as well as the entire exterior of the office building and interior of the upstairs. Grant award notification expected in Fall 2013.
- 2012 Year End Audited Financials and the overall Audit are well behind schedule due to delays by our Auditing firm, YKSM.