

WPWA
Executive Director Report
01/17/2013

* Indicates a topic that will be reported on verbally at this month's board meeting

Project Updates

Shannock

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. 2012. Reimbursement request has yet to be submitted due to scheduling and data gathering complications between the ED and our accountant in pursuit of registering with the new automated federal system.

Horseshoe Falls Project

Final payment to the contractor was made on 1/10/13. The only responsibility remaining for WPWA is to ensure that the long term easement between the property owner and the State is finalized and endorsed.

***Kenyon Mill Dam Project** *This will be reviewed for informational purposes during the meeting.* Contractor bid prices were received on 1/4/13. Base bids from the 6 contractors ranged from \$617,600 – \$1.56mil. The contractor for our previous projects, MAS Building & Bridge, ranked 3rd at \$814,500. WPWA is not beholden to select the lowest bidder. Lowest bidder will be interviewed on 1/18/13. Four of the six bids received fit within the current funding. Project partners are intimately involved in the review and selection process, but the ultimate decision rests with WPWA as we will be the contract owner. The ED will work through bid reviews and contractor interviews throughout January and early February with the partners. Once a selection has been made, the ED will notify the board.

White Rock Dam RIDEM is working to secure the needed state level \$50K match to Army Corps funds to conduct a base level field survey for the removal of White Rock Dam for flood mitigation purposes.

Campus Renovation Project Phase 3 RIDEM has started the design phase for their portage path across the street from the WPWA campus. Poyer and Fox met onsite with Associate director L. Mouradjian and other RIDEM staff on 10/15. We advocated for some site enhancements like an outdoor classroom and strongly urged RIDEM to include these components in their project. RIDEM senior staff decided that the portage repair should include an elevated boardwalk to overcome the site's elevation and erosion challenges.

Water Quality Monitoring 2012 sample collection is complete. \$9k invoice from Watershed Watch for 2011 WPWA water sample analysis was received in Sept 2012 and paid in Dec 2012. Expectation is that the cost will remain the same for 2012 sample analysis.

Habitat Studies Poyer and R. Thomas have completed reports for macroinvertebrate sampling, purple loosestrife biological control, and stream temperature logging. The reports will be posted

on our website in the spring. Poyer has been asked by the USGS for a full copy of all WPWA's temperature studies. Because these studies help document changes due to global warming, temperature studies will feature heavily in next year's monitoring programs.

RIF INE Grant Update The intent of the INE program is to build the capacity and stability of non-profit organizations by providing learning opportunities on board governance, fund raising, leadership, etc. The WPWP ED and Board Chair are required to attend all six sessions. Participation includes \$4K cohort grant which can be used for any administrative type costs or activities; may not be used for programs, etc. Funds are dispersed twice per year, June/July and again in late fall/early winter. How these funds will be used is not yet determined, but primary possibilities will be for board and/or staff capacity building activities, and/or for leadership training/mentoring for the Executive Director. A schedule of meeting will be posted, as will other materials as appropriate, to the online WPWA Board website; board members are encouraged to attend in any and all sessions that fits their interest and/or schedules. INE staff have offered to come to provide an onsite capacity building activity, if desired, later in the program. WPWA will determine if such will benefit the board and/or staff as we move forward with strategic and organizational planning and implementation.

The next session is Tuesday 1/22/13 for a workshop on board governance with Simone Joyaux at the Rhode Island Foundation. WPWA attendees, as part of the Environmental Sector, are invited to attend a lunch at noon, with the training session from 1:00pm-4:00pm.

Additional Resources:

You can find the attached workshop materials and future training materials through this link:
<https://docs.google.com/folder/d/0B2U-KCl-PLUKZjFIIdVFrZEVSnM/edit>

Authenticity Consulting's free organizational assessment:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=3754722401undefined>

WPWA Events All planned 2013 events have been posted to Go Westerly & Westerly Chamber of Commerce website. Various other outlets are being considered and will be utilized.

Kayaking Programs New programs for 2013 continue to be vetted internally. Poyer and Hamilton have developed and posted to the website a core list of events for next year. New this year are "Spur-of-the-moment" digitally advertised events, based on a weather forecast and staff availability. Most will launch from the WPWA Campus. Evening paddles, outdoor movie nights, and holiday theme events continue to be considered for test marketing. Poyer and Hamilton expect to complete their (re)certifications as a Level I Kayak Instructors this spring, allowing us to offer more of our popular Intro to Kayaking classes.

Hiking Programs Roger Masse has agreed to lead another series of birding walks for the 2013 winter & spring schedule. Danielle Aube has volunteered to oversee these walks for WPWA. Hamilton posted all birding hikes in Go Westerly Magazine & on the Westerly Chamber of Commerce website.

Browning Mill Pond in Exeter The Browning Mill Pond Trail project was finally completed on Oct. 20 by Ben Nadeau, an Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 1 Charlestown. Fencing was replaced and the trail was cleared and repaired in spots. WPWA was reimbursed for materials through a grant from the RI Trail Advisory Committee. The scouts' volunteer hours served as the required match.

Blowdown Clearing Many new blowdowns are present due to Sandy. Fox will seek additional funds in 2013 to remove them. These removals have elevated our visibility in the community.

Public Outreach, Education & Access

Coastal Fellow Program WPWA hosted Rosemary Thomas, a URI Coastal Fellow, to help with monitoring and recreational programs in 2012. Thomas completed a macroinvertebrate monitoring poster as part of the program. This is the 12th year WPWA has supported a Coastal Fellow intern. Payroll cost is slightly offset by the Saul B. Saila Fellowship Fund held by the RI Foundation.

Project Wet In coordination with the RIDEM Aquatic Ed Program, Poyer hosted a Project Wild, Aquatic Wild, and Growing Up Wild Facilitators Workshop on Oct. 3 & 4; and a Project WET Facilitators Workshop on Oct. 17 & 18. Eighteen environmental educators took part in the free workshop. Poyer's time was covered by a RI Rivers Council grant. These and similar programs will continue in 2013.

Teacher Training Workshops WPWA has received a 2013 grant from the RI Rivers Council to conduct a series of 4 professional development workshops for teachers. Funding from RIRC has dropped significantly in 2013 making the WSEC too cost prohibitive, and we anticipate that teachers may also be more willing to commit to a one-day workshop as opposed to a 12 week course. The 4 workshops will complement each other, but will be independent of each other. Teachers can take one or all four at no cost. The first will be based on the Growing Up Wild curriculum; the next two will be based on the AWESome! curriculum, and the last will be based on Project WET curriculum. We anticipate up to 50 different educators taking at least one of these workshops.

Urban Waters Grant The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, Woonosquatucket Watershed Association, and WPWA have received an EPA grant to develop a volunteer monitoring program using fish assemblages in small urban rivers. Poyer has been contracted as a consultant and Hamilton as an intern which offsets a portion of their payroll. RIDEM is also partnered on the project that begins this month.

RI Blueways Alliance Poyer will be developing a RI Paddle event for 2013 that will focus on the state wide river maps created by various watershed organizations. Blueways will also sponsor a statewide paddle spanning 6 days in June which includes a campout at WPWA.

Website Staff attended a Dreamweaver training on 12/19/12 with Bruce Hooke & updated various webpages. Hamilton will continue to review the WPWA website and update/correct errors. If you see errors or things that need to be updated, please email heather@wpwa.org.

Newsletter Hamilton is currently working on the Winter 2013 edition of WATERSHED. She is looking for tech related stories for our tech corner or a story related to Hurricane Sandy that has a focus on climate change or sea level rise.

Land Acquisition RIDEM recently acquired a 4 acre parcel on the Pawcatuck River for public access. The parcel abuts the Potter Hill Mill in Westerly and features 500 feet of river frontage. WPWA was instrumental in connecting the owner with the State.

Operation Military Kids (OMK) D. Poyer and ECRI have secured a \$2,500 grant to, in part, fund this event in 2013. The grant funds must be applied toward recreation for disadvantaged youth. This WPWA campus-based event has a high level of visibility and is routinely covered in the local press.

State Wildlife Action Plan Poyer has been invited to sit on a committee to help the state develop the 2015 plan.

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 In 2013 WPWA will create 3 additional day-paddle maps for the Pawcatuck River. Design and limited publishing expenses (\$750/map) will be supported with funds from the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program. WPWA staff time is not an allowable expense. The printable maps will be available on WPWA's website.

Partnerships

***Wild & Scenic** *Poyer will give a presentation and update at this month's board meeting. Including an update on \$24K in seed funds recently secured by the NPS, a portion of which will flow to WPWA in 2013.*

The National Park Service did receive a \$24,000 congressional appropriation to conduct a "pre" study of the Pawcatuck Watershed. Poyer and Fox will meet with NPS staff on Jan 17th at 1pm to rough out a work plan.

There has was no late year movement on the senate bill for the Wild and Scenic Study. Poyer will work with Congressman Langevin and Courtney and Senator Reed's staff to re-introduce the bills into the House and Senate in 2013. Poyer will inform the Study Bill Committee in January.

RI Environmental Education Association RIEEA has engaged a new website designer to redesign their website and develop a searchable database for Environmental Education programs. This website is important to WPWA because it will point educators and others to WPWA's educational programs. The new website should be unveiled in March 2013.

URI NEMO WPWA continues to collaborate with this URI Coop Ext. project through the inclusion of content in our quarterly newsletter. Hamilton has received another NEMO submission for inclusion in the Winter 2013 newsletter.

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.

RIDEM Fox and Poyer attended a meeting with AMC members and RIDEM to discuss assisting AMC with a TAC grant. The project they propose is to install a pedestrian bridge over the Wood River just below the Rte. 165 road bridge. They would be applying for \$100,000 grant to cover the costs of engineering, site preparation and purchase of a pre-constructed bridge. The Narragansett AMC Chapter is very active in trail construction and maintenance in the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed. Their limitation with this particular project is that the TAC grant is only reimbursable and they do not have the funds to cover the expenses upfront. The conclusion was that they would continue to pursue the grant under their own organization and try to get the regional AMC to front the money.

HopArts All 2012 invoices have been paid. WPWA's involvement will be nonexistent until late Spring 2013.

Routine Business

Forrest & Frances Lattner Foundation 2013 Funding Request In late December, WPWA received \$65K of the requested \$80K. Only \$4K short of our 2013 budgeted amount. That difference has already been supplemented by additional grants received in late 2012.

Champlin Capital Revolving Fund *No new developments*

Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition WPWA received this from Sen. Whitehouse in late 2012 for our 2011 Chafee Leadership Award. It has been framed and will be hung in the conference room.

Van Ownership of the WPWA van, purchased in late 2008 with funds from the Lattner Foundation, will soon be transferred. Sale price is \$6,500, \$1,500 less than the revenue budgeted for its 2013 sale. Insurance premium refund and maintenance expense reductions were calculated into the 2013 budget. We will retain the kayak trailer for use in our programs.

Federally Mandated Audit 2012 data gathering will begin this month. WPWA has once again contracted with YKSM under the same terms and costs as the previous year. Cost to conduct the audit is paid for via NOAA's Shannock Project funds.

Membership Effective June 1st 2013, membership dues will increase to \$35 for individuals and \$50 for families for membership year 2013-14. Staff are working to amend publications and postings in preparation for the rate increase.

Annual Appeal 2012 Annual Appeal was mailed out in early November 2012. 211 pieces were sent to “outdated” or “inactive members”. Traditionally WPWA does not reach out to these former members. To date, only two of them have responded, bringing a total of \$150. This is approximately double the cost to print and mail to the additional 211 people therefore we will continue this practice in subsequent years. We have received \$11,490 in revenue from the 2012 annual appeal as of 01/11/2013. In our 2012 budget, we budgeted to capture \$12,000 in appeal revenue. In 2011 total revenue was \$12,568.

Office Watershed Map E. Poyer has a semi-final draft created. Susan Shaw has agreed to consult on colors and aesthetics of the map. Final production should be sometime in Jan.