

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

CONSIDERATION:

The WPWA Annual Work Plan serves as the master guide for WPWA's 2015 activities. Each of the 5 main categories are the products of WPWA's 2014 strategic planning exercise. The guidance from that strategic plan is pasted immediately under each heading for reference. Following are the activities identified by the board and staff that are within our capacity to carryout, provided the anticipated funding can be secured through various sources. Some activities require support in part or total from the board and the Fund Development Committee.

AMENDMENT JUSTIFICATION:

The board-approved 2015 Work Plan, like our annual budget, is a best guess at the work that can be reasonably completed by the board and staff. After approval in late 2014, three high impact events occurred triggering a need to adjust the 2015 Work Plan. Wild and Scenic was approved by Congress, WPWA received 50% less funding from our major Foundational donor, and our Program Coordinator left the organization. The funding reduction occurred prior to the passage of our budget and was thankfully accounted for in our 2015 budget. Work Plan adjustments that correspond to the approved budget are captured below. **RED** represents an elimination of a Plan point, and **GREEN** is a note resulting from the board's Work Plan passage discussion in November 2014, and **BLUE** represents the addition of Wild & Scenic.

Wild & Scenic – Due to federal budget constraints, The National Parks Service can not commit adequate funds (prior to October 2015) to support the F/T WPWA staffer, as was originally planned. NPS cannot flow ANY funding to WPWA until a cooperative agreement is in place, which is expected in May. Therefore, we will not begin work-in -earnest at the WPWA level until Fall 2015. Funding from the Coastal Institute has been budgeted, and will be aggressively sought, to cover the limited staff expenses incurred due to Wild & Scenic prior to contracting with NPS. The inability to hire a dedicated F/T staffer places an additional burden on the existing staff and thus the Work Plan has been adjusted accordingly below. This effort is located under the Access heading.

Foundational Donor – Reductions in the level of effort, primarily in the area of education, have been made to the Work Plan below. Some or all efforts could be restored if funding from an alternate Foundation can be secured and a contract staffer hired. The hiring of a summer part timer for the Welcome Center has also been suspended due to this funding cut.

Program Coordinator - This position has been filled by Elise Torello who brings a greater skill set to the position than is required while remaining within our budgeted payroll amount. Her duties are being tailored to her interests and skills and the position title may change. She will play a key role in fully launching Bloomerang and transitioning WPWA to digital communication. Should the board decide to redesigned our Water Quality Monitoring Program in 2015, Elise would be the ideal person to do so due to her years of intimate knowledge of our sampling and the resulting data.

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) **with 2nd year temperature monitoring – Staff**
Collaborate with URI Watershed Watch to create temperature reporting database - **Staff**
Produce, WebPost, and Offer 2 Workshops on 2014 Report of WQ and Temperature – Staff
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.
- 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

Storm Water Runoff - Continue to assist NEMO in Storm Water Education outreach via WPWA 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**

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**

3) *Ponds & Lakes*

Work with RIDEM & RINHS to determine what role WPWA can play in 2015 and beyond to administer State grants funds on behalf of Lake and Pond Associations to manage milfoil and other flora that negatively impact water quality. – **Staff**

Advocate that grant recipients (affected owners) create management plans and implement best management practices to eliminate the need for annual herbicide applications. – **Staff**

Acknowledgement: Invasive plant threats to estuarine ponds are not specifically addressed nor are they invasive wildlife.

Rivers & Streams

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

Engage with RIDEM and RINHS on what other invasive species (Rock Snot, etc) threaten the health of rivers and streams and how WPWA can play a role in education and abatement in 2016. – **Staff**

Land

Investigate via RIDEM and RINHS how WPWA can assist in uniting landowners with programs to manage land based invasives (knotweed, etc) – **Staff**

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 Stonington Harbor, 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**
- 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**
- 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**

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**
(Digital Ed. Curriculums, Brochures, Teacher Training, etc)

In-Classroom - **Staff**

- 10 In-Classroom Watershed Science Programs Offered by WPWA
- 10 Schools independently educate students utilizing WPWA resources

WPWA Campus Education - **Staff**

- 10 School Groups
- 10 Free Kayaking Programs for Urban Youth
- 10 Programs for Other Groups (Operation Military Kids, Smile, Etc.)
- 1 Summer Institute Watershed Teacher Training

- 2) *33 Recreational Programs in 2015* - **Staff**
 - 3 Full Moon Paddles (Led by Volunteers)
 - 3 Saturday Paddles
 - 2 Kayak Instruction Classes
 - 4 Southern New England Paddles (SNEP) Training Nights (Led by Volunteers)
 - 4 Bioluminescent Paddles
 - 4 Hikes
 - 4 Geocaching (Led by Volunteers)

- 1 Earth Day Cleanup (12 river access sites)
- 1 Map & Compass Workshop (Co-Sponsored by Narragansett AMC)
- 1 Family Fun Fishing Event
- 6 Fly Tying & Fly Fishing Programs (Led by Volunteers)

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**

Annual Meeting (Saturday May 30th 2015) WPWA will offer another PotLuck meeting but this year's event will be held on a Saturday during daytime hours to encourage more families to attend and take advantage of the kayak and campus use. This event will feature an open house following the business meeting and attending members will be encouraged to bring non-member friends. 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. The board will assign a representative in January 2015 to support the staff's planning and implementation efforts –**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 may be delayed until 2016 due to Wild & Scenic driven staffing constraints

Halloween Party WPWA will undertake a new Halloween event at the campus for 3 consecutive nights in October 2015 featuring a "hayride" on the Wood River to view jack-o-lanterns. The land based activities (cider, pumpkin carving, crafts, etc) will be free and those who choose to participate in the pumpkin tour will pay a per-ride charge (appx \$5/person). This will be a large new undertaking that will be thoughtfully planned and implemented in large part by staff with assistance from the board, the FD committee, and volunteers (boyscouts, Chariho Art Dept., etc). The primary goal is to engage a wider audience and elevate our visibility within the community. However, with corporate sponsorship, donations of goods from local businesses, and hayride revenue this would also serve as a fundraising event. The board will assign a committee in January 2015 to support the staff's planning and implementation efforts. –**Staff, Board, FD Committee**

This will be significantly scaled back or delayed to 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. A part time employee will be hired to staff the Welcome Center and will also serve as a program support staffer as needed. Set operational hours will be posted and followed and existing staff will be utilized as needed to uphold the schedule. - **Staff**

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**

4) Serve on RIEEA Board, Science mentor for GEMS-Net, RI Envirothon participation – **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.