

WPWA
Executive Director Report
02/21/2013

* 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 and all reimbursements received from the funders except the USFWS. Reimbursement request has yet to be submitted due to complications in setting up WPWA in the US Treasury's online "ASAP" payment system. We expect this to be resolved in early March, with reimbursement request submission shortly thereafter, and payment received by the close of the month. Delay in payment has not resulted in any WPWA hardship due to our \$250K capital revolving fund support.

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. State properties commission has approved the easement's execution pending one last edit.

Kenyon Mill Dam Project

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. Lowest bidder (Sumco) was interviewed on 1/18/13. Negotiations with Sumco are time consuming and ongoing. Their bid price has been adjusted up to account for partner requested upgrades to their water control plan. With these adjustments, Sumco remains the lowest bidder. Expectation is that WPWA will ultimately contract with this company once a recommendation letter is received from our engineers and additional funding contracts are endorsed.

White Rock Dam WPWA is assisting RIDEM to complete a \$2M proposal to NOAA to conduct a feasibility study and fish passage construction at all 3 remaining obstructions on the lower Pawcatuck (White Rock Dam, Potter Hill Dam, Bradford Dam). WPWA has been cited to provide \$15K of in-kind services in the proposal's draft budget. WPWA will negotiate to instead be paid for our involvement in the project if the funds are awarded to RIDEM. If payment is not possible, it will be made clear that our participation will be provided at our convenience.

Campus Renovation Project Phase 3 Survey work on the RIDEM property across Arcadia Rd from our campus is now complete. Final design of RIDEM's portage repair project is expected in Spring 2013. RIDEM hopes to implement the repair in summer 2013. WPWA will continue to participate in the design process to ensure the project meshes with our recent campus upgrades.

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. A 2013 board led fundraiser to support this annual expense is still expected.

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 meetings 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.

A. Desbonnet will provide an update and summary at the upcoming board meeting of the board governance workshop that he and M. Grant attended on 1/22/13.

Additional Resources:

You can find the attached workshop materials and future training materials through this link:
<https://docs.google.com/folder/d/0B2U-KCl-PLUKZjFIdVFrZEVsZnM/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. Hikes are also posted on Facebook, the WPWA website, and to all members/our mailing list via Constant Contact.

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. The first of four professional development workshops for teachers (Growing Up WILD curriculum) was held in January at the USFWS Kettle Pond Visitor Center and taught by both Poyer and Hamilton. The first of two watershed science content courses for teachers will take place this Saturday at the URI Bay Campus in Narragansett. Poyer and Hamilton will also teach this course.

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. Poyer and Hamilton (along with Meg Kerr & Alicia Lehrer of

The Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, Woonasquatucket Watershed Association) met with Phil Edwards, Alan Libby, and Christine Dudley of RIDEM to share the project plans and get feedback and existing data that the state has on fish populations/waterways. Hamilton continues to work on the project and gather and organize data for analysis. Poyer and Hamilton also met with Meg Kerr & Alicia Lehrer on February 19, 2013 to review project progress and update deadlines.

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 completing the Winter 2013 edition of WATERSHED, which should be sent out to members in the beginning of March.

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 Hamilton attended a Species and Habitats Scientific Review Workshop in January to help the state develop the 2015 plan. She will attend the next 1/2 day workshop, Threats and Conservation Actions, on March 12, 2013.

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 been no late year movement on the senate bill for the Wild and Scenic Study. Poyer has worked with Congressman Langevin, Courtney and Senator Reed’s staff and the bill has recently been re-introduced into the House and Senate. Poyer will inform the Study Bill Committee in January.

St. Paul Academy For the past few months, longtime WPWA member Steve Crandall of Ashaway Line and Twine has been working with WPWA to plan a day of service for St. Paul alumni on May 18th. The day will consist of a morning cleanup and educational program at Lower Shannock Falls, followed by an afternoon reception and fundraiser at the Weekapaug Golf Club in Westerly. All proceeds will be donated to WPWA. WPWA has obtained the Town of Richmond’s permission to conduct the activity at the Knowles Mill Park and applied for a small grant to support expenses. For more information visit www.spsSparks.org.

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 to 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

Annual Staff Evaluations Evals are now complete. The executive committee will review the results with the ED prior to this month's board meeting. Raises, as presented by the ED, were approved by the committee.

Brushy Brook In 2011-12 WPWA commented in opposition to this 300 Acre parcel's development plan proposal to the Town of Hopkinton's planning board. The planning board had approved the development with stipulations that most notably reduced the proposed number of home sites. Additionally, the board stipulated that the project be located farther away from the Arcadia Mgt Area, which borders the site. The developer contested these stipulations which were recently upheld by the RI Housing Appeals Board. For more information visit http://www.thewesterlysun.com/news/editorial-a-great-day-in-hopkinton/article_f1fc9d16-6bae-11e2-9d13-0019bb2963f4.html

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 After a 3 week advertising period, our 2008 Chevy Uplander van was sold in late January for \$6,500. Executive Committee approval of the sale was obtained per the Nov 2012 board motion.

Federally Mandated Audit 2012 data gathering has begun. 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.