

WPWA Board Minutes 11/28/17

Present: Alan Desbonnet, Brenda Rashleigh, Chris Fox, Tom Ferrio, Joe MacAndrew, Ian Willets, Jon Waldstein

6:30 call to order.

1. Previous meeting's minutes approved – Tom moved, Alan 2nd, all approved.
2. Chris gave points of interests to board:
 - a. Burrillville Power plant issue – A representative of the Narragansett Tribe endorsed a contract with Invenergy to allow up to 3 tanker trucks a day of water withdrawal from tribal lands within the watershed to meet proposed power plant's needs. The tribe is challenging the legality of that contract citing that the tribal council was not consulted. WPWA position – don't engage until the authenticity of the contract is confirmed -, or assistance from WPWA is formally requested by the town(s). Chris noted that there are other far more extensive water transfers from the watershed already in existence.
 - b. Chris emailed a video to us made by US Fish and Wildlife Service on Pawcatuck River fish passage, used for outreach, Denise is featured.
 - c. Holiday gift of membership holiday cards will be mailed to all WPWA members. There was a decent response to these cards last year. The annual appeal goes out tomorrow to about 1200 households.
 - d. Brook trout letter – Denise will go to the Dec. 4 ECRI meeting, she will support the WPWA board letter and answer questions. She will also be presenting on the Wild and Scenic effort.
3. John – website (NOTE – handout provided on process)
 - a. Planning for launch of revised website in May 2018.
 - b. Currently in discovery phase, will email board for interest. May want beta testers separate from development team. Next steps – scope, timeline.
 - c. Web redevelopment was the focus of WPWA's pending annual Lattner request.
 - d. The point is to turn the website into a business tool.
 - e. Nice current feature – river condition real-time map.
 - f. Anticipate larger audience when W&S passes.
 - g. Brenda will check on the availability of a species list for the watershed.
4. Business membership
 - a. Some success in 2017, we'd like to grow this in 2018 with strategy and plan.
 - b. Joe contacted two names, neither got back to him.
5. Signature event
 - a. can we have one signature event every year to gather membership? Will put on the agenda for a future meeting.
 - b. Suggestion for an event related to trout – with trout Unlimited and Orvis, include fishing tournament, fly-tying workshop, presentations.
6. Budget
 - a. Template budget has been prepared for next year.
7. Water Quality
 - a. Board agrees that we want to only spend within our means on water quality. Suggest reducing but not eliminating WQ program.

- b. We previously tiered sites 1,2,3. Brenda will take a lead on identifying a subset of Tier 1 (i.e., 1A) that we would select with reduced budget, Alan will help. Sites that are reserved for specific donors will be kept (Chris will let Brenda know which are reserved).
- c. Possible request of Linda to reduce cost for less frequency, Chris has had this conversation with her before and was not successful.
- d. Does it matter to businesses whether to save or rescue a WQ site? No.

7:46 Adjourn.