

**Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
Board of Trustees Meeting
Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2015**

Attending: Helen Drew, Walt Galloway, Pete August, Chris Fox, Jennifer MacKenzie, Mal Grant, Antonia Bryson, Kim Coulter

Excused: T Boving, A. Desbonnet

Visitor: Brenda Rashleigh

1. Call to Order 6:40 PM H. Drew

Helen welcomed Brenda Rashleigh who was visiting as a prospective Board Member.

Antonia Bryson suggested amendments to the minutes.

Pete motioned to approve the minutes with amendments, Helen 2nd. Passed

2. Treasurer's Report – P. August

Pete presented the Treasurer's Report for Year End 2014. The numbers look good overall. There are occasional cash flow problems. It was suggested that we should create a larger buffer in the Emergency Fund. The goal should be between \$18,000 and \$20,000. It was asked if we can dip into our investment portfolio when available cash is tight. Pete will speak to Gerry Cunningham but it is thought that Chris has the authority to do so. Helen will set up a meeting with Gerry.

3. ED - Program Highlights – Chris

Chris asked if there were any questions on the revised 2015 Work Plan. There were none. In his absence, Alan asked Chris to go around the room and ask board members to describe why they think it is important for WPWA to conduct water quality monitoring.

Water Quality Assessment

There was a discussion on the uses of the data collected by the volunteer monitors.

Walt explained that the data is used by the state even if WPWA doesn't use it directly. DEM has just asked for the data for use in their 2016 Integrated Report to EPA.

It was suggested that members and the community at large expect that WPWA monitors water quality as a preventative measure and counts on us to bring to attention any problems. Walt says there is a protocol for sampling and we may wish to review the sites that are sampled. Jen asked how clean the watershed is compared to the rest of the nation. This information could be used for marketing. Helen mentioned that another positive aspect of water quality monitoring is engaging the volunteers, which is very important.

Consensus among the board agreed that we need to rethink our monitoring strategy based on the current issues, including the understanding of stormwater and climate change impacts.

The WPWA Assessment Team will include Denise Poyer, Walt Galloway, Elise Torello and A Watershed Watch representative. The cost to WPWA in staff time to complete the review

and recommend changes will be a maximum of \$7,750. We will be submitting a grant to the BRWCT via the RI Rivers Council requesting \$2,500 in support toward this effort.

4. Annual Meeting – K. Coulter

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday May 30th from 1-4 and will have an open-house format. Activities will include Kayaking, Canoeing and fishing. From 2:30 - 3:30 we will provide snacks and drinks. At 2:00 there will be a representative with animals from the Wildlife Refuge Program “Born to be Wild”. Kim is open to any additional program ideas. Chris will be giving awards. The volunteer of the year award will be given to Christine Hannon who did the mural. Betty Solomon will receive the Posthumous Lifetime Achievement Award. Certificates will be handed out to water quality monitors. It was decided that no trustees award will be given this year. Four Congressional delegates will be given the Solomon Award for their efforts towards achieving the Wild and Scenic designation.

5. Board Membership Number – H. Drew

Helen advised that the Board set a specific number of Member positions in accordance with recommended best practices for boards. Pete motioned that we set the number at 11, Walt 2nd, Passed

6. Loves Truck Stop Proposal Update – M. Grant

The next hearing is taking place on March 26th. It is thought that hearings will take place on a monthly basis. The informational email to WPWA membership discussed at the last board meeting did not go out. It was decided that an informational email informing the membership of what is going on could go out. Antonia is sending a draft to Chris.

7. Adjourn 8:40pm

Minutes submitted electronically by Jennifer MacKenzie, Chris Fox and Antonia Bryson