

## **Expanded Written Report from ED for 2/25/16 WPWA Board Meeting**

### Agenda Items

**2B) Flood Resiliency Mgt Plan: Wyoming Dam** Denise & I met with the RIEMA director Peter Gaynor and select members of his staff on 2/11. The purpose was to make him aware of the W-P Flood Resiliency Mgt. Plan process and its preliminary recommendations. RIEMA does have a very engaged liaison on the steering committee however, Dir Gaynor was pleased to receive a personal briefing from WPWA and indicated he would like to see “all the dams gone” and will carry that message to RIDEM’s director. He also indicated he would promote the Plan’s recommendations for bridges and culverts in his interactions with RIDOT. He also provided a name of a RIDOT staffer for WPWA to contact who he believes should be provided the same presentation. He was very impressed by the comprehensive nature of the Plan and pledged to support and advocate for its recommendations.

Pursuant to the board discussion in January, Denise & I met with RIDEM Division Chiefs and engineers on 2/23. We discussed our concerns related RIDEM’s intention to repair the Wood River’s Wyoming Dam for which WPWA’s Flood Resiliency Mgt. Plan will recommend for partial breach or removal when the Plan is published in late 2016.

With the knowledge that RIDEM is planning to remove the Lower Curran Dam in Cranston, we asked about the process RIDEM undertakes in determining whether to repair, remove or modify a dam that is in need of repair for which they own. Their response was “we have an informal internal process”. Upon further questioning, they were unaware of their own agency’s permitting requirement that an Alternatives Analysis (which includes public input) must be conducted prior to and included in the submission of a Wetlands Alteration Permit application to remove a dam. Permitting also requires clear evidence that the public has been consulted and supports the removal before they will review a Wetland Alteration Permit Application.

Those in attendance acknowledged that RIDEM has little to no experience in the permitting or process of dam removal. They acknowledged that there is a need for a culture change within the Agency when it comes to dams and that they are making steps to change the culture. As evidenced by the Lower Curran Dam

removal. They agreed to revise the engineering RFP for Wyoming Dam to include the Flood Plan's recommendation that the dam be breached or removed.

RIDEM also noted there was a communication deficiency between their liaison to WPWA's Flood Project and the rest of their agency. To resolve this, they requested that an engineer from Dam Safety or Planning and Development be allowed to join the steering committee. We were happy to accommodate that request and offered to assist them in their alternatives analysis for Wyoming Dam.

At the meeting's conclusion, Lisa Primiano suggested that WPWA soon host a retreat for all high level RIDEM staff and management to discuss ways to lessen the onerous permitting blockades that hinder dam removal.

Bradford Dam Example:

**2C) FDC Report:** Alan will remain the chair of the committee which is not in conflict with the Committees Policy. Chairs do not have to be active WPWA Board Members, though that is the preference. Thank you to those who responded to Helen's request for a contribution from the board.

Revised

Step 1: (Now through April)

With a goal of possibly raising some funds, the committee will reach out (via letter and brochure) to 15 long time WPWA supporters. The primary goal will be to meet with at least 5 of these supporters to hone our communication skills with these steadfast members. We will seek feedback from them on how we did and gather any information that is unique to each of these members.

Step 2: (April through June)

With a goal of elevating membership renewal giving and gaining feedback on a new membership structure, the committee will reach out (via letter and brochure) to 15 newer members. We hope to meet with at least 5 of these supporters prior to the annual membership renewal process. We will further hone our fundraising skills and gather any information that is unique to each of these members

Step3: (September through December)

With a goal of raising \$10,000, the FDC (with support from board members) will reach out to 15 predisposed WPWA members to contribute \$2,000 each to WPWA's year end Fund Drive.

#### **4) Annual Report:**

This year the format of the report will be changed to reflect our Strategic Planning Areas. The staff will assume all responsibility for the reports drafting. The inclusion of a letter from the President and the Treasurer will be required. Committee Chairs will be tasked with creating brief narratives that outline the purpose of the committee and any noteworthy 2015 activities or accomplishments.

#### **4) Annual Meeting:** Budget \$2,100

See 2/25/16 Minutes for Details.