



Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

Board of Trustees

February 23, 2017 6:30–8:00 pm

AGENDA

Business Meeting

1. Call to Order @ 6:30 pm

2. Approval of 26 January minutes

3. Business Meeting

- a) Budget News/Updates [Jen/Chris]
- b) RIDEM Browning Mill Pond
 - Brought to my attention by Peter Lacouture
- c) Review of January Retreat Outcomes
 - Discuss draft report from Lighthouse Consulting
 - Changes/amendments needed
 - Next steps?
- d) 2017 Board Action Plan
 - Prioritize effort
 - Facility Use; Higher Giver Campaign & *Planned Giving*; Corporate/Business Giving; Self-sustaining WQ Monitoring Program; Endowment Campaign; Crowd Sourcing; Building the Board (and committees) & including Succession Planning;
 - Define “champions” for each effort
 - Set Timeframes for Action
- e) Annual Review—Executive Director
- f) Annual Self Evaluation—Board of Trustees

Adjourn Business Meeting @ 8:00 pm

Notes on this Agenda:

1. See materials on the board website re: Browning Mill Pond. Peter Lacouture called me regarding this issue. Thoughts of he and others living in the area is why build there when DEM has other aging facilities nearby they could rehab and/or remove and replace. We need some response to this from WPWA.
2. Retreat Report & Outcomes. Please read through this draft from Mark Amaral and bring along any comments or amendments that we can pass along to Mark to incorporate into a final version. Is there anything else we want/need/expect from him beyond delivery of a final report from the retreat?
3. 2017 Board Action Plan. Between the January Retreat and the January Board Meeting we came up with the list of 7 major venues for action. From a functional perspective, if an action item does not have a “champion”—the one person who has the desire and commitment to oversee and manage that action for implementation and success—then progress will not be effectively made. Our discussion at this meeting must be to prioritize these 7 seven action items and find champions for each. If we don’t find a champion on the board for an issue, we need to drop it, at least until we find a champion for that cause. We need to very, very careful not to over commit ourselves among issues—we will only be setting ourselves up for stress and probable failure. Let’s attempt to understand that we may not, given current size and composition of the board, be able to take action on all the areas that need it. Let’s instead attempt to identify what we feel are the most critical actions to focus on, then set up good practices to effectively work in those areas for success.
 - a. As food for thought:
 - i. I would argue that the #1 Priority is a Self-sustaining WQ Monitoring Program—we need to either find a way to have water quality monitoring become self-sustaining, and if it can’t we need to reconsider if WPWA should be in the business of “science.” As discussed at the retreat, perhaps WPWA should focus on outreach and programs for resource users and leave science to others.

- ii. I would argue that our #2 Priority is Building the Board & Succession Planning—we need greater diversity of skills on the board, and more horsepower.
 - iii. I would argue that our #3 Priority is Building an Endowment. We have all agreed that the most effective way to address basic fiscal issues and constraints is to have a source of funds that cover at least the costs of keeping an Executive Director.
- b. You will note on the Agenda, under d), second bullet, in italics I have added *Planned Giving*. This is not something we have discussed, but I think it should be. It occurred to me that current sources of unrestricted funding are from members who left WPWA funds as part of their estate settlement. These funds provide about one-fifth of the total we estimate to need to sustainably fund an Executive Director—and we did essentially *nothing* to acquire them. I think that having discussions about Planned Giving with existing members—higher givers being a prime target—would be an effective means of helping to build the endowment we have said is a priority to have. How we view and develop Planning Giving as a strategy for establishing sustained funding sources is something I think we need to discuss, and perhaps should be another skill set we look for in new board members.

For the board meeting this Thursday, please think hard about what YOU feel the priorities are for action, and if there is a champion among us who can take lead on that action. I would like us to leave the meeting this week with a clear path of action for the coming year, and who is willing to be responsible for those actions.

4. I would like very much to have the time at this meeting to discuss effort by the executive director; I think we need to get some feedback to Chris that he can find useful in performing his duties over the coming year. I mean some constructive criticism on how he works with board, stakeholders, members, etc.
5. Board Self Assessment if we have time; but can be done effectively as we discuss board growth.

Thanks.

AD