

## **AGENDA ITEM 2c: Exec. Dir. Programmatic Highlights**

**Wild & Scenic** Has been added under the Work Plan category of *Access: Plentiful Access to Recreation* because if a W&S designation is achieved, its impact will be most visible in the recreational community.

\*A kick off meeting including our core partners (Save the Bay, Nature Conservancy, RIDEM, CTDEEP) was held at WPWA on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Jamie Fosberg of the National Park Service and WPWA Program Director Denise Poyer lead the meeting.

\*It was agreed upon that WPWA will be the sole and lead coordinator of the 3 year study phase. The NPS will be reliant upon WPWA to complete the study with only minor technical input from the NPS, who will also be responsible for any Section 106 consultations with the Tribes and State Historic Preservation Officers.

\*The NPS is prioritizing the funding needs of all the recently approved rivers. The earliest they could have the W-P study up and running is June. It was agreed to delay W-P start up until at least Sept. 2015. Jamie is targeting \$25K in federal funding in 2015 for WPWA. This will be confirmed as we move closer to signing an agreement with NPS which is likely to occur in July. There will be a master agreement with annual amendments over the 3 years that will detail each year's budget and tasks based on the available funding from NPS each year.

The group also discussed the demographic and technical make up of the steering committee. And the group walked through the 3 year process of a recent river system's study phase.

**Easements** Antonia has been very helpful in reigning in our documentation requirements for our 2014 tax reporting resulting from the late 2014 acquisition and (pending) \$15K financial donation for the Boulder Farm Conservation Easement. We do not have three key pieces of documentation required by the IRS and Antonia and I are working to obtain them through the Jeffrey's attorney. If the documentation cannot be obtained in time for our May 2015 filing deadline, we will file for an extension with the IRS.

Antonia has also been helpful in cataloging our existing easements and determining what if any IRS reporting requirements there are for those.

The IRS does have a requirement that we submit a board approved policy related to our annual monitoring of the Easements that we hold. We determined that a simple

board resolution documented in the meeting minutes would suffice. Our Controller and myself have suggested some open ended language that allows for flexibility while remaining compliant with each easements described monitoring obligations. “WPWA will annually monitor, inspect, and enforce its conservation easements respective to and in accordance with the terms of each individual easement agreement”. I am awaiting comment on the language from Antonia.

**Water Quality Monitoring** We will hear more about the WPWA progress in this area later in the meeting. On 3/11 WPWA and others received a request from RIDEM to provide *“water quality data and information to support surface water quality assessments. The assessment information is used to develop the Integrated Lists, including the Section 303(d) Impaired Waters List, associated with the Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report (Integrated Report). The Integrated Report describes the extent to which waters of the State are attaining water quality standards pursuant to Section 305(b) and identifies waters that are impaired and need TMDLs (total maximum daily loads) as required under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA).”*

We receive this request from the State every five years. WPWA does not respond to the request because Watershed Watch transmits our water quality data to the State as part of a larger data set. (Circulate the email for informational purposes.)

**New Hire** Elise Torello is assimilating to WPWA quite well. Her current primary tasks are preparing for May membership renewal, formatting the new digital newsletter, assimilating to Bloomerang, creating new signage in prep for the annual meeting and downsizing our paper files.

### **ED Concerns**

Cash assets are low which are a direct result of outstanding receivables but primarily a result of the low contribution from Lattner. Without the emergency fund, we would be temporarily laying off staff. I am not confident, but hopeful, that we will be able to fully repay the Emergency Fund by the end of the budget year. I expect to be able to begin to repay the Emergency Fund in June.

It would be helpful for staff to receive updates from the board on the aspects of the Work Plan that they are responsible for.

I continue to have concerns about our participation in the Love's Truck Stop development related to public & member perception and the distraction it represents to board members and staff.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2d: Annual Meeting Progress Update**

SATURDAY MAY 30<sup>th</sup> 1-4pm

This year the meeting will also serve as an open house for non-members, attending members will be encouraged to bring non-member friends. From 1-2:30pm WPWA will offer a host of activities and presentations (kayaking, fishing, kids activity, etc) and spotlight two attractions such as a raptor demonstration. WPWA will offer nibbles & refreshments provided by board and staff at 2:30. The business meeting and awards will be conducted under a tent from 3-4pm. The Welcome Center will spotlight the murals donated by Christine Hannon and a sample of her other artwork. Christine will be considered for a WPWA award or board commendation for her donation valued at over \$3,000.

The board identified in a previous year that we should give the Salomon Award to the RI & CT Congressional Delegation for their efforts to draft and pass the WP Wild & Scenic Study Bill. With the Bill's passage and Betty Salomon's passing in late 2014 we feel it appropriate to focus our attention on this one award this year. We recommend not giving a Trustee's Award or a Lifetime Achievement Award this year. However, Denise will give the Volunteer of the Year award to Cathy Hanlon for her donation of the Welcome Center Mural and our other traditional Water Quality Monitoring Volunteer Certificates (5, 10,15,20,25 years of monitoring).

Does the board agree? Who will present the awards? Helen will preside over the meeting, Pete will serve as Emcee?

We expect each board member to make every effort to attend the meeting and bring refreshments and snacks for the guests. We will be tapping the board as a whole and individual board members to assist in different ways over the coming month.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2e : Fund Development Committee**

Bloomerang is up and running. Alan has been very busy and I have been delinquent in assigning anything meaningful for him to work on. Populating the committee

continues to be a challenge. I have discussed Elise (and her network of contacts) to join the committee, no commitment yet. As always I urge any board members interested in joining the committee to contact me or Alan.

#### Membership Report: *Circulate Handout*

We have set 2 new policies:

- 1) Anyone who joins or renews their membership in the 3 months prior to the May 31st membership renewal will not be solicited to renew on May 31<sup>st</sup> of that year.
- 2) Anyone who donates \$35 or more will receive a membership (effective 1/1/15). This will likely cause an anomalous rise in our number of Memberships. As can be seen in the membership report. (circulate)

Right now we have 442 active memberships (ind, family, business, etc)

145 of those Memberships were renewed or new members joined between 11/1/14 and 3/12/15. During the same time period last year, the number was 128. The increase is likely related to the new policy of automatically making a donor an active member and the same is true for the slight increase in revenue.

We have 505 contacts in our database who are not active members. But 148 of those have given since 3/12/12. The FD Committee will make a targeted effort to re-engage these past donors over the coming months.

Each Quarter we will continue to report on membership status and include a list of top level givers (bottom of report). There is no such thing as thanking someone too much or often for their support. Please review the list and make an effort to thank these folks whenever you run into them at the store! With the knowledge that the staff and/or FD committee will have already thanked them via a postcard, email, phone call, etc within 1 week of their donation.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: Water Quality Assessment Plan**

WPWA's long standing water quality monitoring program will be re-structured to provide the maximum public informational benefit within the limited financial resources that can be committed to the water quality program annually

Routinely, we have selected sites based on opportunity (volunteers willing to monitor a location close to them) or project orientation. We have never done strategic planning of the whole watershed to look at long term data trends and determine how we should structure our monitoring program. WPWA needs to rethink our monitoring strategy based on the current issues, including the understanding of stormwater impacts to waterways.

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.