# Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association Board of Trustees Meeting Meeting Minutes April 16, 2015

Attending: Helen Drew, Walt Galloway, Pete August, Chris Fox, Jennifer MacKenzie, Mal

Grant, Antonia Bryson, A. Desbonnet

Excused: T Boving,

Not in Attendance: Kim Coulter

Visitor: Alyson McCann

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

Helen welcomed Alyson McCann who was visiting as a prospective Board Member.

Antonia Bryson suggested amendments to the minutes.

Pete motioned to approve the 3/19/15 minutes with amendments, Mal 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed

### 2. Treasurer's Report – P. August

Pete presented the Treasurer's Report for Q1 2015. The numbers look good overall. Donations are down a little bit.

#### 3. ED - Program Highlights – Chris

See attached summary notes from Chris below.

# 4. Fund Development Meeting - Alan

The committee is working through issues with Bloomerang involving parsing the data of the membership. It will mine through the membership list to determine which members have a history of donating for further analysis. The committee is also working to develop a tool box to include promotional materials for fund development efforts.

# 5. Membership Committee – Helen

The topic of developing a Membership Committee was discussed. Jennifer agreed to act as interim Chair of the committee. First steps will be to set a meeting date and to vet volunteers that would be willing to represent WPWA at functions in the area to increase membership. Jennifer is going to get out the summary of the results of the volunteer survey conducted last year.

#### 6. Water Quality Assessment Plan Update – Walt

We received a grant for \$2,500 from the RI Rivers Council to be used for the assessment of the current WPWA water quality monitoring program. That leaves a shortfall of \$5,500. An appeal for donations for this project was sent to membership on April 16<sup>th</sup>. A reminder email is to be sent out again at the end of the month.

# 7. Cesspool Legislation in R.I. – Walt

There is legislation being proposed to limit Cesspools in the state of RI. The goal is to regulate purchase and sale resulting in the elimination of them over time. RI is one of the few states that still allows them. There has been opposition to the bill in past sessions from the RI Real Estate Association. Walt will email flyers about it to the Board Members.

#### 8. Adjourn 8:25pm

Minutes submitted by Jennifer MacKenzie, Chris Fox and Antonia Bryson

# **ED - Program Highlights**

- Flood Resiliency Mgt Plan Held Steering Committee Kickoff Meeting on March 26, 2015. The nineteen attendees included representatives from 5 watershed communities, USGS, CT DEEP, Army Corps, RI DEM, TNC, Fuss and O'Neill, and WPWA. Met with Marty McHugh our grants officer from NRWF today. Very positive. WPWA hired two interns under the grant this week from the URI Coastal Fellows Program. Nate Lukas is currently a sophomore in Natural Resource Sciences, who lives in Richmond. Zack Valerio is also a sophomore from Providence who is doing a double major in Marine Engineering and Spanish. Both interns will be working with engineers from Fuss and O'Neill to assist with the field studies. These will include geomorphic assessments of 38 miles of river and stream reaches; assessing up to 50 dams in the watershed; and assessing hydrological features in the rivers such as bridges, culverts, and channelizing walls.
- Shannock reporting complete to all funders, requests for additions revisions expected this summer, but final payment from The Nature Conservancy has been authorized.
  - -FEMA flood map revision requirements in progress. Maps must be changed due to the changes we made in the floodplain in Charlestown and Richmond. I am working on behalf of Richmond & Charlestown to fulfill their FEMA obligations. My assistance includes sending out certified letters to affected landowners, posting the public notice, and obtaining signatures from the town officials. This effort is un-funded, but I must make good on my promise to the Towns to not push any hard cost of the projects onto them and reduce their staff's investment of time to the greatest extent possible. F&O is assisting at no charge as well \$5K in-kind). I am giving a presentation to RI Canoe & Kayak Assn Monday night on Pawcatuck Fish Passage.

- Coastal Institute Proposal for \$15K submitted, awaiting response (budgeted \$15K)
- Meeting with Champlin hopefully later this month to discuss more funds to the campus renovation and how to spend the remaining \$158K of the Capital Revolving Fund.
- Westerly Sun writing an article on Denise and Elise's recent awards. (see handout)
- 2 volunteers helping with campus Spring Cleaning. Clayton is a local special needs student who loves to landscape and Paul is a student in Cranston who we're keeping busy on behalf of Trout Unlimited's Narragansett Chapter.
- Advertised 2 April Vacation programs via flyer that went out to over 500 Richmond and Hopkinton elementary students.