



# The Rhode Island Rivers Council

c/o RI Water Resources Board  
One Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908

## **Minutes of the Council Meeting held February 13, 2008**

Conference Room B

William E. Powers State Administration Building,  
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

### **ATTENDANCE:**

#### **A. Members Present**

Joe Baer  
Ted Callender  
Guy Lefebvre (Co-Chair)  
Scott Millar  
Kevin Nelson  
Will Riverso  
Jane Sherman (Co-Chair)

#### **B. Members Absent**

Claudia Staniszewski  
Mike Walker

#### **C. Watershed Organizations in Attendance**

Ann Morrill – Kickemuit River Council

#### **D. Guests in Attendance**

Keith Gonsalves – RI Blueways Alliance  
Bruce Hooke – RI Blueways Alliance  
Terry Meyer – RI Blueways Alliance  
John Monroe – National Park Service

### **1. Call to Order:**

Mr. Lefebvre called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM.

### **2. Discussion and vote on minutes for the January 9, 2008 meeting**

The minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. Ms. Sherman moved to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Mr. Millar. The motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Discussion and vote on Memorandum of Understanding with RI Blueways Alliance**

The draft memorandum to transfer control of the website "www.exploreri.org" to the Blueways Alliance was distributed to the members of the Council. Mr. Lefebvre noted that the RIRC and members of the RI Blueways Alliance were able to come to resolution quickly on the content of the MOU. Mr. Monroe reported that they were making significant progress in terms of building support and visibility for the Alliance. Mr. Millar moved approval of the MOU, seconded by Mr. Nelson, and the motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Gonsalves stated that they will soon release dates and locations of paddles throughout the state, planning on one organized paddle each week in the warmer weather months. Mr. Hooke reported that it will be relatively easy to implement the transfer and change the information on the website.

### **4. Discussion and vote on re-designation of the Blackstone River Watershed Council and the Narrow River Preservation Association**

The applications were reviewed by Kevin Nelson and Sharon Pavignano. There was a delay due to some missing information, but all has been received and the applications are complete and in order. Mr. Nelson reported that after discussions with representatives of the BRWC, they have agreed to extend their jurisdiction to the area in Northwest Rhode Island that includes the Five-Mile River section of the Quinnebaug Subbasin. The bulk of this watershed is in Connecticut, and it is unlikely that a separate watershed group would be formed for this small area. Mr. Nelson moved approval of the re-designation of the BRWC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Millar, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Mr. Nelson then moved approval of the re-designation of the Narrow River Preservation Association; Mr. Callendar seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **5. Discussion and vote on the transfer of Rivers Council program and development funds to the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (fiscal agent)**

Mr. Baer distributed two items: 1) The February financial statement, with a listing of accounts and budgeted allocations, and 2) the scope of services to be provided by the fiscal agent, the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council. Mr. Baer noted that the approved budget allocations mirror the tasks and amounts designated in the scope of work, with the exception that amounts have been adjusted to provide for a 7% administrative fee. Mr. Callender questioned the number of topics listed for possible grant applications and asked what the priorities of the Council are. Mr. Baer noted that the items presented were intended to give guidance while providing flexibility. Depending on the detail and length of the grants, the proposed 3 to 6 applications is a reasonable expectation. Ms. Sherman stated that in her own opinion, the focus of the Council's grant writing would be to fund research or program items that will assist the watershed councils in achieving their goals. Mr. Baer moved, and Mr. Callendar seconded, a motion to approve the transfer of funds (\$7,000) to the WRWC. The motion passed unanimously.

### **6. Discussion and vote on expenditure of program and development funds**

Mr. Baer discussed the list of services to be provided by the WRWC, noting again that they are consistent with the approved budget and workplan. Mr. Nelson questioned the use of funds for preparing the public notice for re-designation of watershed councils, noting that the preparation of the document takes minimal time. Ms. Sherman stated that it will can be determined by the state agencies represented on the Council and the Council if this service will be necessary, noting that the contract provides for other duties as identified. The question was also raised relative to the September 2008 date for completion of the annual report. Mr. Lefebvre received

clarification from the WRB that annual reports are now due 90 days after the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Baer moved and Mr. Callender seconded the motion to approve the proposed expenditure of program and development funds. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **7. Legislative Committee Report**

Mr. Riverso distributed copies of legislation drafted and submitted by the Coalition for Water Security, "Rhode Island Shared Water Resources Act."

Due to a fire alarm in the building, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

**Next Meeting: March 12 at 9:00 AM in Conference Room B**