



Rhode Island Rivers Council  
 c/o RI Water Resources Board  
 One Capitol Hill  
 Providence, RI 02908  
 www.ririvers.org



Minutes of the January 8, 2014 Meeting  
 RI Department of Administration  
 William Powers Building - One Capitol Hill - Conference Room B  
 Providence, Rhode Island

**ATTENDANCE:**

**A. Members Present**

- Veronica Berounsky (Chair)
- Rachel Calabro (Vice Chair)
- James Cole
- Walt Galloway
- Paul Gonsalves
- Judith Hadley
- Chuck Horbert
- Guy Lefebvre
- Lisa McGreavy (Secretary)
- Elise Torello

**B. Guests in Attendance**

- Greg Gerritt, Friends of the Moshassuck
- Ann Morrill, Kickemuit River Council
- Ken Payne, Systems Aesthetics LLC
- Marcia Pena, Buckeye Brook Coalition
- David Urban, Kickemuit River Council
- Michael Zarum, Buckeye Brook Coalition

**1. Call to Order.** Dr. Berounsky called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm. It was noted that this was the Annual Meeting of the RIRC, as required by the Operating Procedures of the RIRC for administrating RIGL Chapter 46-28.

**2. The 2014 Meeting Schedule Approval:** Ms. Hadley moved to approve the following 2014 meeting schedule. Mr. Cole seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. In the event a meeting will be held in a different location, the agenda will be revised and properly re-noticed.

January 8	4:00 PM	DOA Conf Rm B	July 9	4:00 PM	DOA Conf Rm B
February 12	4:00 PM	DOA Conf Rm B	August 13	4:00 PM	DOA Conf Rm B
March 12	4:00 PM	DOA Conf Rm B	September 10	4:00 PM	DOA Conf Rm B
April 9	4:00 PM	DOA Conf Rm B	October 8	4:00 PM	DOA Conf Rm B
May 14	4:00 PM	DOA Conf Rm B	November 12	4:00 PM	DOA Conf Rm B
June 11	4:00 PM	DOA Conf Rm B	December 10	4:00 PM	DOA Conf Rm B

**3. Review and Approval of December 11, 2013 Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Torello moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Horbert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Keynote Speaker – Ken Payne: The Origin and Uniqueness of the Rivers Council and its Role in the Future.** Mr. Galloway introduced speaker Ken Payne who was instrumental in the passing of legislation creating the Rivers Council and was in fact appointed to be the first Chair of the Council. Mr. Payne presented an informative and passionate talk about his experiences working in the Rhode Island political arena and the dedication that was needed to pass the RIRC legislation; the importance of protecting rivers; the connection people have to their local rivers, and the empowerment of local watershed councils through the RIRC designation process. Mr. Payne focused on three areas pertaining to the RIRC: why the RIRC was created, why the RIRC is unique and can do what few other organizations can do; and what is the importance of the RIRC going forward especially in light of the need for the state to adapt to climate change. A summary by Mr. Payne will be available on the RI Rivers website at a later date – see [www.ririvers.org](http://www.ririvers.org) Mr. Payne recognized Ms. Ann Morrill for her dedication and long service in protecting the Kickemuit River.

**5. Reports by RIRC Representatives on State Committees:**

**a. Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP) – Walter Galloway**

Mr. Galloway reported that he attended the first meeting of the expanded NBEP Management Committee. The draft Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan update is available on the website at [www.nbep.org](http://www.nbep.org) and there will be opportunities for the RIRC to participate. The Watershed Counts initiative continues under the leadership of NBEP Director Tom Borden and Nicole Rohr of the URI Coastal Institute.

**b. State Guide Plan Advisory Committee – Rachel Calabro**

Ms. Calabro reported that she attended a meeting in December on the stormwater section of the new guide plan element and welcomed input from Mr. Payne and the council on how the classification plan can be utilized in the future. RIRC representatives will be meeting with a guide plan subcommittee to discuss applicability of the RIRC classification plan in the state guide plan.

**c. Bays, Rivers & Watersheds Coordinating Team (BRWCT) – Veronica Berounsky**

Dr. Berounsky reported that she attended a special meeting today at the State House on the status of the Beach SAMP plan and the work that is being done to plan for climate change and predictions of sea level rise along the Rhode Island coastline.

**6. News of activities in Local Watershed Councils:**

Buckeye Brook Coalition as reported by Mr. Zaram: Winter water quality sampling programs continue with the RI Airport Corporation, City of Warwick, URI Watershed Watch and RIDEM. The Coalition continues to monitor proposed activities at Green Airport including the development of a de-icing management system and construction of an onsite wastewater treatment plant. A public notice has been posted on the airport's wetlands application to RIDEM with comments due by January 7, 2014. Annual clean up programs are being planned for the spring.

Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association as reported by Mr. Galloway: The office has been closed for renovations. Construction of the Kenyon Mill Dam fish passage rock ramp is almost complete.

Salt Ponds Coalition as reported by Ms. Torello: The SPC is expecting water quality sampling data in late February/early March. The Five Year Status and Trends Report has been drafted and is on the website. Work continues on preparing the National Fish & Wildlife habitat resiliency grant proposal that is due January 31, 2014.

Friends of the Moshassuck as reported by Mr. Gerritt: Work continues on several initiatives including the fish monitoring project, reforestation project to control invasive Japanese Knotweed, and the wildlife video project which is being modified to involve more children.

Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone as reported by Ms. Hadley: Kudos to the *Riveredge* art program which has conducted successful river-themed arts projects along the river including a chalk art contest which can be viewed on their Facebook page. Clean up efforts have been extremely successful due to a large group of dedicated volunteers. Plans are underway to participate in the Land & Water Summit in March when the group will be presenting a talk on one of their many successful programs.

Kickemuit River Council as reported by Mr. Urban and Ms. Morrill: The Kickemuit River fish ladder brochure and video that were created with help of 2013 RIRC grant funds are being distributed to local groups including the Bristol-Warren School Department who are showing the video in the classrooms. This year's RIRC grant to construct a 3-d model of the fish ladder is progressing. Ms. Morrill reported that she plans to file an objection to a CRMC proposal to amend Section 110.C of the RICRMP to expand the types of projects eligible for Administrative Review by the CRMC. A public meeting has been scheduled for January 14 at 6pm at the East Providence City Hall.

Narrow River Preservation Association as reported by Dr. Berounsky: The Fish & Wildlife Service has received Superstorm Sandy restoration funds and some will be used to increase water quality monitoring in the Narrow River.

## **7. Committee Reports**

Signage for Trail Heads & Crossings as reported by Mr. Cole:

A plan has been drafted and will be presented to this evening's meeting of the RI Canoe and Kayak Association for feedback.

## **8. Officer Reports:**

Treasurer Report as presented by Ms. McGreavy:

Mr. Horbert moved to approve the FY2014 Financial Summary dated January 8, 2014 (attached below). Mr. Cole seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **9. Other Business:**

Mr. Horbert reported that RIDEM has issued a public notice for the freshwater wetlands application for the proposed hydropower project at Natick Dam.

Mr. Lefebvre provided council members a *New York Times* obituary that noted the passage at age 105 of Dr. Ruth Patrick whose scientific career unfolded starting in the 1930s at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University in Philadelphia. Dr. Patrick was "a pioneer in studying the health of freshwater streams and rivers who laid the scientific groundwork for modern pollution control efforts." Dr. Patrick said her interest in nature went back to her father giving her a microscope at age seven.

**10. Chair's Report:** Dr. Berounsky is seeking volunteers from the council to be the RIRC representative to the RI Environmental Collaborative as Mr. Gonzales is no longer able to attend the meetings. The RIRC membership terms for four RIRC members expired on January 1, 2014; however we are expecting the terms to be extended and all have indicated their willingness to remain on the council. Dr. Berounsky thanked the members for their dedication.

**11. Adjournment:** There being no further business, Mr. Cole moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Horbert. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 pm.

**Rhode Island Rivers Council - FY2014 Financial Summary**

Grantee	Item	Amount
Blackstone River WC, FOB	Fish in the Classroom	\$1,900
Buckeye Brook Coalition	Knowles (Parsonage) Brook Monitoring w/URI Watershed Watch	\$700
Kickemuit River Council	Working Model of the Denil Fish Ladder	\$1,900
Moshassuck, Friends of	Collyer Field Restoration/Wildlife in the North Burying Ground	\$1,000
Narrow River Preservation Association	River Watch Results II - Effects of Human Activities and Climate Change	\$1,900
Pawtuxet River Authority & WC	Improvements to Phenix Harris Riverwalk	\$1,900
Salt Ponds Coalition	Water Quality Monitoring of Southern RI Coastal Lagoons	\$1,900
Wood Pawcatuck WC	Water Quality Monitoring in the Wood-Pawc. Watershed	\$1,900
Woonasquatucket River WC	Promoting Stewardship through Recreation & Monitoring	\$1,900
RIRC Administrative	Administrative expenses (see below)	\$150
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$15,150</b>

Note: Grant round approvals made at Nov 13, 2013 meeting;  
 FY14LegisGrant=\$15,150 (\$150 transfer to admin acct plus \$15 to WRWC (10%)pending)

**RIRC Administrative Account**

Payor/Payee	Item	Date	Amount	Balance
Starting Balance 07/01/13				\$5,385.94
Guy Lefebvre	Summer meeting supplies reimbursement	08/19/13	-\$32.44	\$5,353.50
GoDaddy	Domain renewal CY2014 & 2015; Webhosting renewal 10-27-13 to 10/27/15	10/16/13	-\$166.52	\$5,186.98
Ending Balance 1/2/2014				\$5,186.98