



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



Minutes of October 8, 2014 Meeting - 4pm
 RI Department of Environmental Management
 Conference Room 280 - 235 Promenade Street
 Providence, RI

ATTENDANCE:

- A. Members Present:
 Veronica Berounsky, Chair
 Rachel Calabro, Vice Chair
 Walter Galloway
 Paul Gonsalves
 Judith Hadley
 Chuck Horbert
 Lisa McGreavy, Secretary
 Elise Torello

- B. Guests in Attendance:
 Greg Gerritt, Friends of the Moshassuck
 Kathy Rourke, Friends of the Moshassuck
 David Urban, Kickemuit River Council
 Debra Butler, Kickemuit River Council
 Dana Warren, Kickemuit River Council
 James Toomey, Blackstone Valley Tourism
 Ames Colt, Bays, Rivers, and Watersheds Coordinating Team
 Tom Borden, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

1. Call to Order: Dr. Berounsky called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.

2. Review and approval of September 10, 2014 meeting minutes: Mr. Horbert moved to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Torello seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Speaker Series - Grant Project Presentations:

Wildlife in the North Burying Ground, Friends of the Moshassuck (FOM):
 Mr. Gerritt presented a series of videos he created to show the amphibian wildlife that exists in an urban drainage swale located within Providence's North Burial Ground. The videos which were composed with an eclectic mix of jazz and original music focused on Fowler's Toads in all stages of



development from tadpoles to fully formed adults. The videos will be adopted for children who can follow “Teddy the Tadpole’s Great Adventure” and watch their dance called “The Tadpole Shake.” To view the videos, go to the FOM website at <http://www.themoshassuck.org/tadpoles.php>. The project aims to raise awareness that amphibians thrive in unexpected places if there is enough water to sustain aquatic habitat. More consideration is needed to protect these special places in designing and building stormwater systems.

Working Model of the Denil Fish Ladder, Kickemuit River Council:

Mr. Urban and Ms. Warren presented a video documenting the impact of manmade dams on historic fish runs in the Kickemuit River and the importance of Alewife to the ecosystem as an anadromous forage species for larger salt and freshwater game fish, herons, and ospreys. The construction of the new fish ladder at the southern end of the Kickemuit Reservoir along with the stocking of Alewives by the RIDEM aims to restore the historic fish runs in the river. The video is narrated by Doug Watts, author of *Alewife*, Phil Edwards from DEM Fish & Wildlife, and Rick Greenwood of the RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission. The video is available on YouTube, and copies were donated to local libraries and schools along with teaching aids. A working model of the fish ladder which was created by industrial designer Don Nguyen was displayed at the meeting and will be made available to local schools as well.

4. Reports by RIRC Representatives on State Committees:

- a. Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP)-
Mr. Galloway announced that the NBEP is now fully staffed with the recent addition of Ms. Eivy Monroy as watershed coordinator for the program. RI Public Radio will be airing a weeks’ worth of stories from different perspectives on the bay called *One Square Mile: Narragansett Bay*.
- b. State Guide Plan Advisory Committee –
Ms. Calabro noted that DEM’s Ernie Panciera distributed a draft of the RI Nonpoint Source Management Plan for comments. The plan has now been finalized and submitted to EPA. Now the focus returns to completing the State Guide Plan.
- c. Bays, Rivers & Watersheds Coordination Team (BRWCT) –
Dr. Colt provided an update to the BRWCT stormwater micro grants that are being made available to watershed councils via the RI Rivers Council. The grants can only be issued on a reimbursement basis and the team is looking for an appropriate organization to administer the grant. Dr. Berounsky tentatively scheduled three meetings for

councils to explore stormwater project ideas for early December, January and February.

5. News of activities in Local Watershed Councils:

Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone: Ms. Hadley reported that there will be a public hearing on the Peterson/Puritan Superfund Site this evening at 5:30pm in the Cumberland Library. On October 15, there will be a meeting on the Branch River organized by Eugenia Marks of Audubon RI and Paul Roselli of the BRWC at the Burrillville Middle School. Presenters include the RIRC's Chuck Horbert, Linda Green of the URI Watershed Watch Program, and Heidi Travers of the DEM/TMDL Program. The BRWC/FOB is planning a fundraiser at the Five Guys Burger restaurant in Lincoln on December 4th from 5-8pm.

Buckeye Brook Coalition: Mr. Horbert reported on recent activities at Green Airport involving the misdirection of two excavators for which no wetlands violations were found.

Kickemuit River Council: Mr. Urban reported that a grand opening of the Kickemuit River Fish ladder is being scheduled for the spring. The council has been considering a number of project ideas for the FY15 RIRC legislative grant round. There will be a public meeting on the proposed Kickemuit Woods development on October 14 at the Warren Town Council meeting.

Narrow River Preservation Association: Dr. Berounsky reported that the annual meeting was held last week with keynote speaker Ken Payne, past Chair of the RIRC, who spoke about his personal connection with the Narrow River and the importance of working to make a difference.

Salt Ponds Coalition: Ms. Torello reported that the Coalition is starting their fall activities and is working on the next newsletter.

Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association: Mr. Galloway reported that a Pawcatuck River Watershed Resiliency grant has been awarded to the WPWA which will provide funding for the development of a watershed management plan to be endorsed by DEM. A volunteer appreciation cookout will be held on October 29 from 6-8pm. Fall events are underway – see the website at www.wpwa.org for more information.

6. Committee Reports:

-Committee to review the new *DEM Fish & Wildlife Freshwater and Anadromous Fishing Regulations for the 2015-2016 Season*, dated August 1, 2014 and *2014 Rhode Island Freshwater Fishing Abstract*:



Mr. Horbert reported that in response to meetings with RIRC's Jim Cole, DEM Fish & Wildlife has agreed to revise the rules and will be distributing additional information.

-Committee on RIRC FY15 Legislative grants: Ms. Calabro reported that grant proposals are being accepted for FY15 funding. Based on a request she received, Ms. Calabro moved to extend the October 15 deadline to October 20. The motion was seconded by Mr. Horbert, all voted in favor and the motion passed. Ms. Calabro will distribute an email to all designated councils notifying them of the grant deadline extension.

7. Officer Reports:

Treasurer-Ms. McGreavy distributed the monthly financial report. Ms. Torello moved to request an additional payment of \$10 to the RIRC website hosting company Go Daddy in order to extend the storage space to 1 gigabyte. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hadley, all voted in favor and the motion passed.

8. Other Business:

Dr. Berounsky reported on the October 6 Watershed Counts meeting and presentation by Alicia Lehrer of the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council and Denise Poyer of the Wood-Pawcatuck River Watershed Council on a project to sample water conditions and perform fish counts and identification using electrofishing equipment on the Woonasquatucket, Ten Mile and Moshassuck Rivers. The project was funded through a grant from the EPA Urban Waters Program. The equipment is being made available to other watershed groups.

9. Chair's Report:

Dr. Berounsky requested volunteers to help update to the RIRC Operational Manual which should include a listing of standing committees to oversee re-occurring yearly activities such as re-designations and legislative grants. Designated councils should begin to think about good stormwater-related project ideas in their watersheds for the BRWCT Grant that would cost less than \$5,000 each for discussion at meetings being scheduled in December, January and February. The next RIRC meeting scheduled for November 12 at 4pm will be a public hearing on re-designations immediately followed by a regular meeting that will consider the FY2015 RIRC grant proposals. The meeting will be held in Conference Room B at the Department of Administration.

10. Adjournment: There being no further business, Mr. Horbert moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Hadley. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:51pm.