



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



Minutes of November 12, 2014 Meeting - 4pm
 Conference Room B
 State Administration Building
 One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

ATTENDANCE:

A. Members Present:

- Veronica Berounsky, Chair
- Rachel Calabro, Vice Chair
- James Cole
- Walter Galloway
- Paul Gonsalves
- Chuck Horbert
- Guy Lefebvre
- Lisa McGreavy, Secretary
- Elise Torello

B. Guests in Attendance:

- William P. Aldrich, Buckeye Brook Coalition
- Stanley Charron, Buckeye Brook Coalition
- Alice Clemente, Blackstone River Watershed Council/FOB
- Ames Colt, Bays, Rivers, and Watersheds Coordinating Team
- Alicia Eichinger, Salt Ponds Coalition
- Arthur Ganz, Salt Ponds Coalition
- Greg Gerritt, Friends of the Moshassuck
- Elaine Papa, Buckeye Brook Coalition
- Marcia Pena, Buckeye Brook Coalition
- Denise Poyer, Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
- David Urban, Kickemuit River Council

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Open Public Hearing regarding re-designation of local watershed councils for a period of five years per RI GL 46-28-8: Dr. Berounsky called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm and initiated introductions.
2. Overview of Responsibility and Process: Ms. Calabro welcomed council representatives and outlined the re-designation process.



3. Acceptance of comments on re-designation applications of the Buckeye Brook Coalition, Salt Ponds Coalition, and the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association: Ms. Calabro commended council representatives on submitting thorough, well-prepared applications. Representatives from all three councils were present to summarize the goals and accomplishments of their respective councils over the past five years. Others in attendance (see above list of guests) expressed support for the approving the re-designation requests.
4. Close Public Hearing: Hearing no further comments, Ms. Calabro closed the public hearing at 4:28 pm.

MONTHLY MEETING:

1. Call to Order of RI Rivers Council Monthly Meeting: Dr. Berounsky called the meeting to order at 4:28 pm.
2. Committee Reports: (Including representatives to State Committees)
Bays, Rivers & Watersheds Coordination Team (BRWCT) –
Dr. Colt summarized the objectives of the BRWCT and provided an update on the BRWCT grant to the RIRC which aims to help individual councils develop project ideas to address stormwater pollution in their respective watersheds and fund implementation of selected projects. Dr. Colt expressed appreciation to Mr. Bob Billington and Mr. James Toomey of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council who have agreed to act as fiscal agent for the BRWCT grant and now the project can go forward. Dr. Berounsky will be scheduling a total of three meetings with council representatives over the next three months to develop stormwater project ideas. The first meeting will be held in December with representatives from the Woonasquatucket River, Blackstone River, and Moshassuck River watershed councils. The second meeting will be held in January with representatives from the Kickemuit River, Buckeye Brook, and Pawtuxet River watershed councils; and the third meeting will be held in February with representatives from the Salt Ponds Coalition, Narrow River, and Wood-Pawcatuck watershed councils.
3. Consideration of Re-designations of Local Watershed Councils: Ms. Calabro thanked council representatives for their hard work in submitting complete and well documented re-designation applications. Ms. Calabro also thanked RIRC members Ms. Hadley and Mr. Horbert for serving on the re-designation subcommittee.
 - a. Buckeye Brook Coalition: Mr. Horbert made a motion to accept the re-designation, seconded by Ms. Calabro. Mr. Lefebvre spoke in favor of the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.
 - b. Salt Ponds Coalition: Ms. Calabro made a motion to accept the re-designation, seconded by Mr. Cole. Mr. Lefebvre spoke in favor of the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.



- c. Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association: Ms. Calabro made a motion to accept the re-designation, seconded by Mr. Cole. Mr. Galloway abstained from voting. All remaining members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.
- 4. Allocation of Funds from FY15 Budget for Grants and Operating Expenses: Ms. Calabro thanked RIRC members Mr. Cole and Mr. Billington for serving on the grant subcommittee and summarized the list of grant requests and the subcommittee's recommendation.
 - a. Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone River Rat Program with Cumberland High School
Recommended amount: \$2,000
Mr. Horbert made a motion to approve the recommended amount seconded by Mr. Cole. All members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.
 - b. Friends of the Moshassuck
Collyer Field Restoration/Wildlife in the North Burying Ground
Recommended amount: \$1,500
Mr. Galloway made a motion to approve the recommended amount seconded by Mr. Cole. All members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.
 - c. Kickemuit River Council
Repair of no discharge buoy, oil absorbent booms
Recommended amount: \$2,000
Mr. Cole made a motion to approve the recommended amount seconded by Mr. Horbert. All members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.
 - d. Narrow River Preservation Association
Exploring Narrow River through the lens of Science and Art
Recommended amount: \$1,994
Mr. Cole made a motion to approve the recommended amount seconded by Mr. Galloway. Mr. Lefebvre said that this river education program that seeks to integrate art and science is an outstanding model project that could likely be used by other watershed councils upon its further development. Dr. Berounsky abstained. All remaining members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.
 - e. Salt Ponds Coalition
Water Quality Monitoring of Southern Rhode Island Coastal Lagoons
Recommended amount: \$2,000
Mr. Cole made a motion to approve the recommended amount seconded by Mr. Horbert. All members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.



- f. Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
Water Quality Monitoring in the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed
Recommended amount: \$2,000
Mr. Cole made a motion to approve the recommended amount seconded by Ms. Torello. Mr. Galloway abstained. All remaining members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.
- g. Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council
Promoting Stewardship through Recreation & Monitoring
Recommended amount: \$2,000
Mr. Cole made a motion to approve the recommended amount seconded by Mr. Gonsalves.
All members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

Ms. Calabro made a motion to move \$1,400 from the RIRC administrative account balance of \$1,656 and distribute it evenly to each of the seven grant awards thereby increasing previously recommended amounts of each grant by \$200 and leaving a remaining balance of \$256 in the RIRC administrative account, seconded by Mr. Horbert. Dr. Berounsky and Mr. Galloway abstained. All remaining members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

5. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes: Mr. Cole moved to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Galloway seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Officer Reports: Treasurer-Ms. McGreavy distributed the monthly financial report.

7. Continuation - Committee Reports (includes representatives to State Committees):

Narragansett Bay Estuary Program (NBEP)-
The NBEP will be issuing a request for proposals for a small grant program in the spring 2015. The NBEP Science Advisory Committee is now fully established with 15 members across several disciplines from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

State Guide Plan Advisory Committee –
Ms. Calabro noted that there are no updates to report at this time.

8. Other Business:
Mr. Galloway reported on a meeting held at RIDEM today regarding the state's efforts in proceeding with the cesspool phase out initiative.

9. Chair's Report:
Dr. Berounsky reported on the RIRC grant to Ms. Eugenia Marks/Audubon Society of Rhode Island to try and raise interest in creating a Branch River watershed council. Recently Ms. Marks held a successful public



outreach/education meeting on October 15 and Dr. Berounsky will speak further with Ms. Marks regarding her recommendations on how to proceed.

Dr. Berounsky received a request from Meg Kerr of RI Clean Water Action on behalf of the RIRC to submit a letter to the US EPA supporting the proposed rule to clarify the definition of "Waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act. Dr. Berounsky made a motion that the RIRC submit a support letter to EPA as described, seconded by Ms. Calabro. Ms. McGreavy abstained. All remaining members voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed. Mr. Horbert agreed to assist with writing that letter.

10. Adjournment: There being no further business, Mr. Galloway moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Horbert. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 pm.