



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



Minutes of March 11, 2015 Meeting - 4pm  
 RIDEM - Conference Room 280C  
 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI

ATTENDANCE:

A. Members Present:

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

B. Guests in Attendance:

Alicia Eichinger, Salt Ponds Coalition  
 Eivy Monroy, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program  
 David Urban, Kickemuit River Council

1. Call to Order of RI Rivers Council Meeting: Ms. McGreavy called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.
2. Speaker Series: Eivy Monroy, Watershed Program Coordinator, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program: *Grants for the Greater Narragansett Bay Watershed – Requests for Proposals.*

Ms. Monroy presented the background leading to the Estuary Program's 2015 grant program that, in coordination with the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC), will distribute up to \$65,000 in grant funds for projects that help meet the Estuary Program's goals and provide capacity to organizations within the watershed. Ms. Monroy outlined grant requirements and deliverables listed in the Request for Proposals due before noon on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Funds are designed for individual grants in the range of \$3,000 to \$10,000 per project to be administered on a reimbursement basis. See <http://neiwpc.org/contractors/opportunities.asp>



3. Review and approval of February 11, 2015 meeting minutes: Mr. Horbert moved to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Cole seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Reports by RIRC Representatives on State Committees:

-Narragansett Bay Estuary Program – Mr. Galloway reported that there will be a quarterly meeting of the Management Committee next week. The program will be announcing more grant opportunities in the future with NEIWPC acting as the funding agent.

-State Guide Plan Advisory Committee – Ms. Calabro said there is no news to report at this time.

-Bays, Rivers, & Watersheds Coordination Team (BRWCT) –Dr. Berounsky reported that yesterday was Dr. Colt’s last day as Chair of the Coordination Team due to non-renewed funding for staff of the Coordination Team in the Governor’s budget. Members expressed their gratitude for Dr. Colt’s hard work and dedication to help the RIRC through the years. RIRC is particularly grateful for his efforts to revitalize the RIRC with new appointments in the past few years and allocating some of his clerk’s work time for assistance with RIRC administrative tasks. Also Dr. Colt has been very supportive of RIRC’s efforts to gain additional funding for the designated Watershed Councils through the BRWCT.

- i. BRWCT funds to RIRC: Dr. Berounsky reported that while the future of the BRWCT is unknown, funding for at least the first year of the two year stormwater grant to RIRC should be secure since the funding has already been allocated. She will report on year two as soon as she receives any information. The deadline for Year One proposals is April 1<sup>st</sup>.

5. Reports of activities in Designated Local Watershed Councils:

-Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone: Ms. Hadley reported that the “River Rat Program” which received RIRC funding is making headway. A calendar of events has been posted on the website listing various cleanups. See <http://blackstoneriver.org/blackstone/> Efforts are underway to remove and properly dispose of two abandoned transformers located near BRWC/FOB property. Plans are being developed to use an abandoned building for storage and a classroom addition.

-Buckeye Brook Coalition: Ms. Calabro reported that DEM Fish & Wildlife’s Phil Edwards will be offering training on conducting fish counts on March 25 and March 26 for the count season which runs from April 1 to May 15<sup>th</sup>. For more information see <http://www.buckeyebrook.org/>.



-Kickemuit River Council: Work on a RIRC grant project to repair no discharge buoys and purchase oil absorbent booms is underway; however, progress is slightly delayed due to winter weather. Dr. Berounsky received information from KRK member Ms. Morrill that the Warren Town Council gave permission to inspect the presence/non-presence of sewers connections.

-Friends of the Moshassuck – no report

-Narrow River Preservation Association: Dr. Berounsky reported that there is 14 inches of ice in the upper pond which is unusual. Many upcoming events have been listed on the website including 5/9: run/walk road race now in its 42<sup>nd</sup> year; 6/27: swim; and 7/31 Sunset to Moonrise Paddle. A new event this year is “Gansett Days” on September 18, 19, and 20 to celebrate all things Narragansett. For more information see <http://www.narrowriver.org/>.

-Pawtuxet River Authority: Mr. Cole reported that Mr. Nero received an invitation from Save the Lakes to join them with a display at an upcoming fundraising event.

-Salt Ponds Coalition: Ms. Eichinger reported that several events are being finalized and will be posted on the website including a 30<sup>th</sup> year celebration of the SPC. For more information see <http://www.saltpondscoalition.org/> A newsletter is in the works. Water quality testing is coming up; all monitoring locations are covered except Point Judith. The SPC is working with students from a URI Landscape Architecture class on the redesign of the Quonnie breachway. Another aquaculture application has been received for Point Judith. Discussion ensued regarding a proposed redevelopment of cottages on leased land near Potter Pond at lower Wakamo Point currently before the South Kingstown Zoning Board.

-Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association: Ms. Torello reported that she is now fully engulfed in managing events for the WPWA. WPWA’s Ms. Poyer is now gearing up for work on the National Wild & Scenic Rivers study to begin in the fall as well as the Pawcatuck Watershed Flood Resiliency and Management Plan Project. Many recreation programs have been added to the website. For more information see <http://www.wpwa.org/>

-Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council: Mr. Galloway reported that volunteers will be conducting fish counts at the Rising Sun Mills. Anyone interested can sign up on the website at [www.wrwc.org](http://www.wrwc.org)

6. Committee Reports:

Mr. Cole reported that the DEM Division of Fish & Wildlife has scheduled a public workshop and hearing on March 30 at 6pm regarding proposed amendments to portions of the *2014 Rhode Island Freshwater Fishing Abstract*.

7. Officer Reports: Treasurers Report: Ms. McGreavy distributed the monthly financial report.

8. Other Business: no report

9. Chair's Report:

Dr. Berounsky stated that designated watershed councils may need to be reminded that they need to submit a letter declaring their legal standing as a designated council to the appropriate municipality and/or agencies when seeking to be notified or submit comments on pending development proposals.

The 2015 Land and Water Summit is scheduled for Saturday, March 14 at URI. The BRWCT and RIRC will be sharing a display table and distributing RIRC flyers.

Connie Carey from DEM Water Resources is seeking water quality data and will be distributing emails making her request to watershed councils.

The following speakers have been confirmed for upcoming RIRC meetings:  
On April 11: Wenley Ferguson from Save the Bay on saltmarsh restoration  
and May 13: Jenny Pereira from the RI Foundation on grant writing.

10. Adjournment: There being no further business, Mr. Galloway moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Hadley. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 pm.