



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



Minutes of April 8, 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
 Judy Hadley
 Guy Lefebvre
 Lisa McGreavy, Secretary
 Elise Torello

- B. Guests in Attendance:
 Alicia Eichinger, Salt Ponds Coalition
 Alicia Good, RIDEM, Office of Water Resources
 Sue Kiernan, RIDEM, Office of Water Resources
 Eivy Monroy, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
 Ernie Panciera, RIDEM, Office of Water Resources
 David Urban, Kickemuit River Council
 Michael Zarum, Buckeye Brook Coalition

Call to Order of RI Rivers Council Annual Meeting: Dr. Berounsky called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm.

Chair's Report: Dr. Berounsky introduced Alicia Good, Assistant Director of RIDEM who worked on the State Legislative Task Force on Wetland and OWTS Setbacks (Senate bill #S0733 and House bill # H5962) and is seeking RIRC support for the proposed bill. Ms. Good provided a summary of the taskforce's findings and discussion followed. Dr. Berounsky distributed a draft letter of support for review and approval. Mr. Cole made a motion to send the RIRC support letter to the legislature. Mr. Lefebvre seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed unanimously.



Review and approval of March 11, 2015 meeting minutes: Ms. Hadley moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Cole seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports of activities in Designated Local Watershed Councils:

-Blackstone River Watershed Council / Friends of the Blackstone as reported by Ms. Hadley: Upcoming events include a bridal shower clean up event along the bike path on 4/11/15. A display about the River Rat program has been installed in Cumberland schools.

-Buckeye Brook Coalition as reported by Mr. Zarum: Recent changes in the BBC leadership include Mr. Zarum as president, Mr. Earnshaw as Vice President, Bill Aldrich as Secretary, and Doug Wood as Treasurer. Thank you to the RIRC for approving the BBC's request for re-designation in December. Upcoming clean up events and the Annual Fish Count Program are now scheduled. See <http://www.buckeyebrook.org/index.html>

-Friends of the Moshassuck as reported by Ms. Hadley: Annual tree planting at Collier Field has been scheduled. A multiyear effort to plant trees to shade out invasive Japanese knotweed has been successful. <http://www.themoshassuck.org/>

-Kickemuit River Council as reported by Mr. Urban: RIRC grant update: Buoys are being repaired and oil booms have been purchased.

-Narrow River Preservation Association as reported by Dr. Berounsky: Upcoming events include the Narrow River Road Race on May 9, Narrow River Turn-Around Swim on June 27, and a Pettaquamscutt Paddle on July 31. <http://www.narrowriver.org/>

-Pawtuxet River Water Authority – No report

-Salt Ponds Coalition as reported by Ms. Eichinger: The URI Landscape Architecture class's Quonnie breachway redesign project has been completed. A new development called "The Point" has been proposed in the watershed and SPC has been attending meetings. Many events have been scheduled including a speaker series for this summer. See <http://www.saltpondscoalition.org/Calendar.html>

-Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association as reported by Ms. Torello: The first meeting of the flood resiliency project was held last week with representatives from area towns in attendance. The 2013 water quality monitoring data is now available from URI Watershed Watch. Many events including paddles before and after the removal of White Rock Dam have been scheduled along with map and compass reading workshops. For more information, see <http://www.wpwa.org/events.php>

-Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council as reported by Mr. Galloway: The fish counts have begun! Volunteers are welcome. For more information, see <http://www.woonasquatucket.org/>

Speaker Series: This month's speaker: Wenley Ferguson, Director of Habitat Restoration, Save the Bay presented a talk and slideshow on *Salt Marsh Adaptation in Rhode Island*. The presentation is also available on the RI Land and Water Partnership website at the following address: http://www.landandwaterpartnership.org/documents/Summit2015/D2_Salt_Marsh_Adaption_Strategies.pdf

Reports by RIRC Representatives on State Committees:

-Narragansett Bay Estuary Program – Mr. Galloway reported that new grant opportunities will be announced soon.

-State Guide Plan Advisory Committee – Ms. Calabro reported that a meeting of the committee has been scheduled for June 23, 2015.

-Bays, Rivers, & Watersheds Coordination Team (BRWCT) – Dr. Berounsky reported that a recent budget article eliminated the positions held by BRWCT Chair Dr. Ames Colt, and Melissa Deciantis who was assisting the RIRC on many fronts. Ms. Torello is now monitoring the RIRC email account at info@ririvers.org. Funding for the first year of the BRWCT stormwater grant that was awarded to the RIRC remains in place; however the fund will now be managed by Sue Kiernan of RIDEM. Currently there are no guarantees about year 2 of the grant. Dr. Berounsky will be meeting with Ms. Kiernan and Mr. Billington of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council who has agreed to act as the RIRC's fiscal agent on the grant.

- i. BRWCT funds to RIRC: Ms. Calabro reported on the recommendations of the grant subcommittee regarding the six proposals received in response to the Year 1 RFP for BRWCT stormwater grants. Ms. Calabro presented each proposal separately for discussion and voting ensued as depicted below

GRANTEE	PROJECT NAME	REQUESTED AMOUNT
Buckeye Brook Coalition	Water quality monitoring of Knowles Brook	\$700
Ms. Calabro made a motion to accept the proposal as submitted. Mr. Cole seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.		
Audubon Society of RI on behalf of the Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone	Stormwater Transport of On-Site Wastewater Effluents Relative to Enterococcus TMDL and Sewage-Related Contamination of Rivers	\$959
Ms. Calabro made a motion to accept the proposal as submitted. Mr. Cole seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion except for Ms. Hadley who abstained. The motion passed.		
Narrow River Preservation Association	Sources of Fecal Indicator Bacteria and Stormwater Entering Narrow River	\$2,500
Ms. Calabro made a motion to accept the proposal as submitted. Ms. Torello seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion except for Dr. Berounsky who abstained. The motion passed.		
Pawtuxet River Authority	Sediment Analysis of Tongue Pond Cranston	\$2,500
Ms. Calabro made a motion to accept the proposal as submitted. Mr. Galloway seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.		
Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association	Assessing Water Quality Monitoring Program for the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed	\$2,500
Ms. Calabro made a motion to accept the proposal as submitted. Ms. Hadley seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion except for Ms. Torello and Mr. Galloway who abstained. The motion passed.		
Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council	Urban Rivers Monitoring Program	\$2,500

Concern was raised regarding one aspect of the proposal needing a stronger connection to stormwater management. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that R. Calabro will contact the WRWC to request a minor revision in the proposal narrative. Ms. Calabro made a motion to accept the proposal with an amended narrative. Mr. Galloway seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

Dr. Berounsky added that instructions for submitting requests for reimbursement will be forwarded to grantees once we receive state/BRWCT authorization to proceed on the grant projects.

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

Committee Reports:

Mr. Cole provided a summary of the March 30 public hearing and workshop held by the DEM Division of Fish & Wildlife to amend portions of the *2014 Rhode Island Freshwater Fishing Abstract*.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Ms. Hadley moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Cole. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

