

## **Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council**

**8 Hope Furnace Road, Hope, RI 02831**

**401 615-7039 - [www.pawtuxet.org](http://www.pawtuxet.org)**

### **Monthly Board Meeting**

**PRA Office, Hope - March 7, 2011**

**Board Members Present: Bob Nero, Jack Donovan, Scott Goodinson, Rita Holahan, Jack Lancellotta, Ginny Leslie, Paul Lockett, Mike Maddalena, Brian Manning, Carl Mattson, Ed Soltys, Gary Trott**

**Board Members Absent: Ross Adrain**

### **Call to Order**

**Chairman Bob Nero called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. A quorum was present. The agenda was approved with on a motion by Mr Goodinson which was seconded by Mr. Mattson.**

### **Approval of February, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

**The minutes were unanimously approved, with a correction provided by Ms. Holahan of the dollar amount of the NRCS work, on a motion by Mr. Mattson, seconded by Mr. Donovan.**

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

### **Pawtuxet Dam Removal**

**An updated Project Timeline was distributed and discussed. Mr. Nero**

reported that in the state legislature, the amendment to strike the requirement for the Providence Water Supply Board to maintain the dam in Pawtuxet has been approved in both the Senate and House committees. It is scheduled to be voted on this coming week and will then go to the governor for signature.

### **Clean-up Schedule**

A revised schedule for clean-ups in April and May was distributed and discussed. Firestone will send a trailer for tires; we will use it for tires picked up at several sites. Ms. Leslie offered to post the clean-ups on the websites of the Environment Council of Rhode Island and What Grows on in Rhode Island.

### **Norwood Conservation Area**

Mr. Goodinson has met with the neighborhood association in Norwood and they are supportive of the project and want to help. They have an organizational meeting on March 16 and will publicize the clean-up to their members. Mr. Goodinson visited the property to assess the amount of debris needed to be cleaned up but couldn't get to the river because the ground was very wet. There was not a lot of debris or litter to be picked near the road. Ms. Holahan said there was an Eagle Scout interested in helping at that site.

### **Property Donations**

**There is no change in the status of the West Warwick property. In Warwick, the subdivision process is still underway; the lawyer who was handling the matter for the family died. If the property is not transferred before the clean-up, the owners want an indemnification document.**

## **FINANCE**

### **Financial Report – February 2011**

**An updated finance report was distributed and discussed; Mr. Nero provided detailed information on our bank accounts, account balances, monthly expenses, payables and receivables. He also provided a chart of projects paid through our restricted account. He reported that the annual report is almost complete. When it is done, he will send copies to all the cities and towns and will include invoices to Warwick, West Warwick and Coventry.**

**Mr. Nero explained that the RIDEM grants for the fish passage/dam removal project are reimbursable and that we may need a source of short-term financing. He will meet with Centreville Bank to see if they can help. The cities of Warwick and Cranston are also possible sources.**

### **Procurement Policies and Procedures – State Guidelines**

**RIDEM requested a statement of our procurement policies and procedures because of the fish passage project. As a quasi-state agency, we are under state guidelines, but they are not as strict as**

those for state agencies. Mr. Nero has created a draft statement describing our policies and procedures and believes they should be approved by the board. He suggested a sub-committee be formed to review the document.

### **New Accountant Search**

Mr. Mattson reported that Peter D'Orsi, the fifth candidate, has been interviewed. Ms. Holahan said that a Request for Proposals will be finalized and sent within a week. The candidates will have three weeks to respond. The committee will make a recommendation to the board and the board will vote.

### **Annual Report**

Mr. Nero will finalize the report this week and e-mail it to the board.

### **990 AR**

The accountant is working on this document. He has gotten an extension for filing.

### **New England Saltwater Show**

Mr. Trott is working on this event, scheduled for March 11-13 in Providence. A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers to man the booth. Ms. Holahan provided photographs for two display boards.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **June Paddle**

The board agreed to hold this event on June 25 and to include a cookout. Mr. Nero suggested we buy a new collapsible propane grill and the board agreed that would be an excellent acquisition.

### **Osprey Monitoring Program**

Ms. Holahan provided information on this Audubon Society of Rhode Island (ASRI) program. There is at least one site on the Pawtuxet River where ospreys have had a nest; it is near the Cranston wastewater treatment facility. We are registered for that site and we provide ASRI and with photographs and GPS points and updates on what's going on at the nest.

### **URI Watershed Watch Program**

In connection with the dam removal, the team wants to do water quality testing at one site near Rhodes on the Pawtuxet. There is a volunteer willing to collect the samples, but there is a \$500 fee from URI for the chemical analysis. Suggested for funding sources were suggested; Ms. Leslie offered to ask Friends of the Pawtuxet and the Pawtuxet Village Association for support.

### **Mickey Bolek**

Mr. Manning informed the board that long-time PRA board member from West Warwick Walter "Mickey" Bolek has passed away. He

**diligently created several volumes of newspaper clippings during and after the years of his terms on the PRA. A moment of silence was observed.**

### **Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mr. Mattson, seconded by Mr. Soltys, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Ginny Leslie, Secretary**