

## **Local Watershed Council Activity Reports**

**Taken from: RI Rivers Council Meeting Minutes, November 9, 2016**

**Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone** as reported by Ms. Hadley: On Sunday October 23<sup>rd</sup> the Boys and Girls club of Cumberland/Lincoln held their 8<sup>th</sup> annual duck race. Every year The BRWC/FOB provides the manpower for the set-up and breakdown of the protective water booms that keep all 17,500 little yellow rubber ducks inline, and prevents them from escaping. In all the years of doing this we have lost no more than 5 ducks! Members of our board also provide water safety and are in the water with canoes. Because of the recent rains, the flow in the river was too fast, so the race had to be moved to the canal. This is one of our main fundraisers and this year, together with the sale of souvenir ducks, we raised \$1,100.

BRWC Monthly meetings have switched to 100 Amica Way, Lincoln, RI 02865, Through March 2017. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM.

On Sunday Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, 8 BRWC board members & volunteers each worked 5 hours cutting and clearing trees and brush from the Blackstone Canal. One tree was felled due to beaver damage.

[www.blackstoneriver.org/blackstone/](http://www.blackstoneriver.org/blackstone/)

**Narrow River Preservation Association** – as reported by Richard Grant:  
Annual Membership Drive

- We continue to receive 2017 Memberships and plan to send a second appeal to household who have not responded to the first appeal.

The 2017 On Pettaquamscutt Winter Speaker Series speakers and dates have been announced:

- NRPA's speaker: Sunday, January 29, 2017 Malcolm Spaulding and Jennifer White - *Improving the Health of the Narrow River Estuary*
- Sunday, February 26, 2017 Friends of Canonchet Farm – Nancy Karraker – *Amphibians and Reptiles in the Narrow River Watershed*
- Sunday, March 26, 2017 South County Museum – Tim Cranston – Industry along the Pettaquamscutt

All of these are held at the Maury Loontjens Memorial Library in Narragansett, RI. More information at the NRPA website: [narrowriver.org](http://narrowriver.org)

CRMC Salt Marsh Resiliency Project in the Narrow River:

- Work has commenced on the marsh restoration within the John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge on the Narrow River. Subcontractors have set up barges at Middlebridge and Narrow River Kayaks and CRMC has posted signs with the project number. We expect that CRMC will post signs explaining and describing

the plan to visitors in the near future. Dredging is only allowed in the fall and winter due to migrating fish.

- There will be dredging between Sprague Bridge and Middle Bridge and the removed material will be sprayed onto the marshes (via thin layer deposition) to increase the height of the salt marsh (on the eastern side of the River) for the salt marsh sparrow and other birds.
- It should be noted that the separate, recent, modeling study for the mouth of Narrow River suggests that changes in tidal flow would occur if there was dredging at the mouth. Whatever layer is sprayed onto the marshes in the current project would be affected by the higher water levels from the increased flow if there was dredging at the mouth.
- More information and maps of the project are available on the CRMC website: [http://www.crmc.ri.gov/news/2016\\_1007\\_marsh.html](http://www.crmc.ri.gov/news/2016_1007_marsh.html)

Waterline:

At the suggestion of NRPA President Richard Grant, NRPA is developing a new marketing tool. It will be a list of Board members and perhaps other active members and will also list their background and interests in NRPA activities. It will be sent to town council members, potential donors, and others.

[www.narrowriver.org](http://www.narrowriver.org)

**Salt Ponds Coalition** – as reported by Ms. Eichinger –

1. The group committed to cleaning up Green Hill Pond is still going strong. They just had another meeting, and SPC along with the GHG will meet with a representative of Jim Langevin's to educate them about the factors that negatively affect GHP and possible solutions.
2. We met with the town of Charlestown and representatives from URI to go over the long-term plan for the EPA Septic System Grant.
3. URI CRC hosted a webinar about aquaculture. It's the first of two webinars on the subject, and will culminate in the summer with a town hall type meeting about aquaculture. SPC was part of the planning team for these webinars, and I did send out an email to our membership about it.
4. Thanks to Elise for her help, we have started processing our 2015 water quality data.
5. SPC is in the process of overhauling its membership categories for 2017, and we are looking at ways to increase membership in both South Kingstown and Narragansett in the coming year.
6. We hosted our volunteer appreciation party to celebrate the end of our water quality testing season this month and the completion of our summer/fall educational activities, quite a few volunteers attended.

[www.saltpondscoalition.org](http://www.saltpondscoalition.org)

**Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association** as reported by Ms. Torello:

- The Jay Cronan river access project on the Pawcatuck River has started construction.
- Ten conductivity meters have been deployed at locations throughout the Wood-Pawcatuck watershed to assess stormwater effects. These meters will stay deployed continuously, and will be retrieved, downloaded, and redeployed every six months. This work was funded through the NFWF Flood Resiliency Management Plan grant.
- Annual appeal letters will be arriving in people's mailboxes this week.
- We are doing a holiday gift membership drive for the first time--cards will go out the end of November.

<http://www.wpwa.org/>

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The November meeting included a Public Hearing on the re-designation of the four local watershed councils below for a period of five years, pursuant to RI GL 46-28-8. Council Representatives gave a detailed overview of their activities, which are summarized below. All four local watershed councils were unanimously approved for another five years by vote of the RI Rivers Council.

**Friends of Moshassuck**

Greg Gerritt gave a brief summary of their activities including videos, tree planting, the tree mapping project, and monitoring economic development. Upon request he gave a paraphrase of their mission as Urban Watersheds and related Urban Economies.

[www.themoshassuck.org](http://www.themoshassuck.org)

**Kickemuit River Council**

Robin Hagan Aguiar gave a brief summary of their activities including monitoring the repair of the Warren sewer line interceptor project, monitoring the new fish ladder, participation in the International Coastal Cleanup in September, a Spring cleanup, and transitioning to new and younger members.

<http://www.kickemuitriver.org/>

**Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council**

Bob Nero read from a summary of activities. The activities for the next several years include: Continue to pursue construction of anadromous fish passage on the Pawtuxet with the long term goal being to deliver anadromous fish to the Scituate Reservoir on the North Branch and the Flat River Reservoir on the South Branch. In the

short term they are concentrating their efforts on Blackamore Pond Cranston, Cranberry Pond Warwick and the Pontiac Dam Warwick.

Maintain most of the current properties and further develop others especially the Harris Dam Fishing Area Coventry, and the Hope Mill Pond Dam Scituate.

Investigate new river access areas, especially Belmont Park Warwick

Perform periodic river maintenance, especially removal of fallen trees in the Pawtuxet River.

Continue to expand trout stocking throughout the Pawtuxet River.

<http://www.pawtuxet.org/>

### **Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council**

Alicia Lehrer gave highlights of their three primary areas of effort:

1. Greenways and Paths and trails
  - a. Pocket park at Eagle and Kinsley which provides a little place to rest and access the river
  - b. Reconstruction of the bike path from Providence Place Mall to Olneyville is finally on the state's Transportation Improvement List with a complete redesign
  - c. Teen adventure park in the making
2. Water Quality and Habitat Quality
  - a. 5<sup>th</sup> fish passage on the river is now being constructed so fish can migrate up to Manton Pond as a "nature like" fishway rather than a fish ladder.
  - b. 2 pilot Green Infrastructure showcases
    - i. Riverside Park walkway walking tour of GI – working with school students
    - ii. Pleasant Valley Parkway GI projects with rain barrels, tree filters by the city, and rain boxes
3. Education
  - a. Now a full-fledged student education program with over 500 students
  - b. Added high school students now with leadership skills training to do environmental projects.
  - c. "Sadvertisement" video done by students is on the WRWC website

[www.wrwc.org](http://www.wrwc.org)

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Note: November 2016 Activity Reports were not available from the Buckeye Brook Coalition and the Ten Mile River Watershed Council.