

## **Local Watershed Council Activity Reports**

**Taken from: RI Rivers Council Meeting Minutes, December 14, 2016**

**Kickemuit River Council** – as reported by Robin Hagan Aguiar:

The Town of Warren was in the process of the sewer line interceptor project. The initial report indicated several joints were not sealed or tested. We are waiting to hear from the Town on how the engineers will proceed with these unsealed joints. All indications are the project was overall a success with the majority of the joints sealed and pressure tested with no defects apparent. We are not sure when the final report will be received from the engineers.

We are also awaiting the Town's updated policies and procedures regarding sewer tie-in and permitting.

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

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

The NRPA held its monthly meeting on December 6th.

The Treasurer's report noted that to date, a response to the first mailing to 3,300 friends and residents in the three towns, North Kingstown, South Kingstown and Narragansett through which the Narrow River runs is 256 memberships. The total income to date is \$18,954.29. For interest, that equals \$74.00 per response. Individual membership is \$35.00 and family membership is \$50.00. A second mailing is in process to accomplish notifying past members of the 2017 Membership drive.

A new program has been established, called Waterline, which will direct information to a specific audience in order to enlighten a core program. The first Waterline was directed to the new town councils of the three towns, noting the program for which each NRPA board member is responsible.

NRPA was happy to announce that this is the 25th year of River Watch. It was also noted that the data from the sites tested by NRPA for The Nature Conservancy, CRMC and U.S. Fish and Wildlife has been completed. The data from the 14 sites routinely tested by NRPA has been completed as well, and the data program was approved to be logged into the data base.

NRPA will meet with The RI Foundation at a seminar in March for Organizational Endowment Review. The NRPA funds that are now established at TRIF are Leeson, Dick, Otto and Gorman. The funds have the capacity to grow each year and contribute interest to NRPA.

In our Land category, it was reported that the dredging study, Shady Lea Dam removal and Marsh Resiliency program are on track, and the review of a specific dock application was reviewed.

The subject of the Little Red House, an historic icon on Sedge Island in the Narrow River, was brought to our attention as it was removed by U.S. Fish & Wildlife due to its poor condition. Future action by NRPA may take place.

In the Education bracket, Science Fair judging and the Lesa Meng Scholarship College scholarship were noted as being on track. Additionally, one of our Board Members will again engage fourth grade classes at two local schools in learning about and tracking the migration of osprey.

Rivers Council, Friends of Canonchet Farm, The Bike Path, Narrow River Handbook, Oyster Bed Project, Sprague Bridge Park and Home Owner email program were updated as to status.

Upcoming events include:

- ***On Pettaquamscutt Speaker Series*** beginning on Jan. 29
- Land and Water Summit on March 11
- 30th Annual Narrow River Road Race on May 20
- What Lives in the River on June 17
- 12th Annual Turnaround Swim on June 24
- Pettaquamscutt Paddle on July 21 (tentative)
- Annual Meeting settled for October 3, 2017

The winter issue of the Narrow River Notes is scheduled to be published January 2017.

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

**Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council** – as reported by Mr. Horbert

Cleanups at our sites are winding down, but we are planning a couple spring cleanups for next year, including a cleanup of property the PRAWC owns at the opposite end of Libera Street from our Randall Pond dock property in Cranston, and a big cleanup to be coordinated at Tongue Pond in Cranston. We will be investigating pursuing some property improvements on the Libera Street property, which is at a dead end street and has experienced illegal dumping problems.

We have recently received reimbursements from DEM for our brush hog grant as well as for our Randall Pond dock project. The reimbursement for the Randall Pond Dock project will allow us to repay the short term loan we received from Centerville Bank as well as free up funds that had to remain untouched due to the collateral requirements of that loan.

We are reassessing the need to make any major repairs or reconstruction of our Pontiac Canoe Launch area since it appears that recent work over the summer on an adjacent landfill (that is going through the closure process) may have alleviated the major storm flow issues the site has experienced in the recent past.

An issue has come up on the project site for the Pawtuxet Falls Dam Removal. We need to place one or two interpretive signs as part of the grant requirements, but one of the favorable locations appears to be blocked by another sign for an adjacent business. The PRAWC is starting to do its due diligence to determine if the sign in fact is on our property and, if necessary, take appropriate steps to have the sign removed or relocated.

We continue to discuss ways to improve communication with residents in the watershed and to explore opportunities for fundraising.

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

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

1. The Green Hill Group had another “governance” committee meeting which I attended. They are currently strategizing next steps for cleaning up Green Hill Pond.
2. We have seen the development of quite a few sub-standard lots in the Green Hill area. These are concerning to us (as well as the towns of South Kingstown and Charlestown). These lots are incredibly close to the water and are prone to flooding (with conditions worsening in the future and during big storms).
3. Dredging has begun in the Charlestown Breachway, and dredge material is being placed on the adjacent marsh.
4. URI CRC hosted a webinar about aquaculture. It’s was the second of two webinars on the subject which 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. The second webinar focused on the 5% rule in the ponds.
5. SPC sent out year-end donation letter, and we are gearing up for our 2017 membership drive next year.

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

### **Ten Mile River Watershed Council** – as submitted by Ben Cote:

The TMRWC wrote a letter supporting the town of Seekonk in cleaning up a brownfield site along the River. The area will hopefully support River access for paddling, fishing and hiking in the future. We are also following a proposal to build a compressor station on the Rehoboth/Attleboro border and are getting ready to take a position on it. We assisted the

East Providence Historical Society with a winter event at Hunts Mills, Leading a walk with the Providence County Hiking Club and discussing the River and fire training grounds. Meetings will resume in January.

[www.tenmileriver.net/](http://www.tenmileriver.net/)

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

The Wild and Scenic committee and sub-committees are continuing to meet and work on the ongoing study.

John Jay Cronan access area rehabilitation project is nearing completion. Valuable and informative signage was eliminated from the project due to the high cost of wetland permitting. Additional funds are being sought to restore the Cronan signage and hopefully add signage to TNC's new King Factory landing on the Pawcatuck River (just downstream of Cronan). KFL is in construction now as well.

WPWA's WQ monitoring program is in jeopardy of being cut due to loss of funds (\$4,000 combined) from RIRC and the elimination of the legislative grants program. WPWA is also planning for cuts in funding from federal programs in 2017 as well. To address this, WPWA is looking to the incoming administration's promise of increased federal funding focused on "Infrastructure Improvement" to continue to carry out our mission in 2017. Thankfully the soon to be completed Pawcatuck River Flood Resiliency and Management Plan will have science based recommendations for infrastructure upgrades in the watershed. If such grants become available, we are well positioned to make this pivot.

WPWA is also significantly reducing its youth education programs in 2017 due to a lack of capacity to carry them out within an ever dwindling funding climate.

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

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Note: December 2016 Activity Reports were not available from:

- Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone;
- Buckeye Brook Coalition;
- Friends of the Moshassuck; and
- Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council