



The Rhode Island Rivers Council  
c/o RI Water Resources Board  
One Capitol Hill  
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Minutes of RIRC Annual Meeting  
Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 3-5 pm  
Rhode Island State House Library  
82 Smith Street, Providence, RI

ATTENDANCE:

A. Members Present:

Veronica Berounsky, Chair  
Alicia Eichinger, Vice Chair  
Walter Galloway  
Paul Gonsalves  
Eugenia Marks  
Ernie Panciera  
Elise Torello

B. Guests in Attendance during Meeting:

William P. Aldrich, Buckeye Brook Coalition  
Kassi Archambault, Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association  
Paul Earnshaw, Buckeye Brook Coalition  
Richard Grant, Narrow River Preservation Association  
Judy Hadley, Friends of the Blackstone/Blackstone Watershed Council  
Jenny Paquet, RIDEM  
Douglas Stephens, Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council  
Mike Zarum, Buckeye Brook Coalition

C. Additional Guests in Attendance during Displays:

Sally Johnson  
Joseph Masino, Governor's Office  
Rep. Carol Hagan McEntee

From approximately 3:00 until 4:00, RI Rivers Council and Watershed Council displays were on view inside and outside the State Library and staffed by RIRC members and watershed council members.

At approximately 4:00 the General Assembly started their session. The RI Rivers Council was recognized in RI General Assembly by Senator Susan Sosnowski for the Senate and Carol Hagan McEntee for the House. Several RI Rivers Council members and representatives of state-designated watershed councils were welcomed into each General Assembly chamber, identified by name, and thanked.

Call to Order: Dr. Berounsky called the meeting to order at 4:45 pm

Review and Approval of February 13, 2019 meeting minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes and seconded.

Because of the late hour of the meeting, many reports were tabled until next month, unless there was something necessary to report this month.

Reports by RIRC Representatives on State Committees:

**Narragansett Bay Estuary Program:** As reported by Walt Galloway, written report submitted by Julia Bancroft:

Our SNEP Request of Proposals is out for Watershed Restoration Projects (large-scale implementation and small-scale planning and design) within the greater bi-state Narragansett Bay watershed with funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency's ("U.S. EPA") Southeast New England Program ("SNEP"). The selected projects will further implement the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan ("CCMP") as it relates to the SNEP vision and purpose. There are up to \$606,000 in federal funds available for this RFP. **Pre-proposals are due April 2, 2019.**

Our new Program Director, Mike Gerel, has been with us for about a month now. He is planning on coming to the next RIRC meeting and looks forward to meeting everyone. In the meantime, if you would like to schedule a meeting with Mike individually, please contact him directly at [mike.gerel@nbep.org](mailto:mike.gerel@nbep.org) to set up a meeting.

**State Guide Plan Advisory Committee (Outdoor Recreation):** tabled

**Department of Environmental Management Watershed Section:** Tabled.

**Bays, Rivers & Watersheds Coordination Team (BRWCT) Funds:** Tabled

**Water Resources Board:** Tabled

Officer Reports:

**Financial Report.** Ms. Torello distributed a written report and noted there were no changes from last month.

Reports of Activities from Designated Local Watershed Councils: all tabled, see website for more info.

**Narrow River Preservation Association**

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

**Salt Ponds Coalition.**

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

**Ten Mile River Watershed Council**

<http://www.tenmileriver.net/>

**Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council**

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

**Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone**

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

**Buckeye Brook Coalition.**

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

**Friends of the Moshassuck.**

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

**Kickemuit River Council.**

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

**Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council**

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

**Ten Mile River Watershed Council.**

<http://www.tenmileriver.net/>

**Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association:**

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

Committee/Legislation Reports: No reports provided.

Other Business: No reports.

Chair's Report:

As mentioned at last month's meeting, Elise Torello is stepping off the RI Rivers Council at the end of this meeting. She will continue on as RIRC webmaster until we find someone else, which we are thankful for. It was noted that Elise developed the multi-colored RI state map that has all our RIRC state-designated watershed councils on it (the map is on our brochure, tri-fold display, and new banner-map). She also developed our new brochure. And Elise had taken on the role of "treasurer", submitting monthly financial reports, which Alicia Eichinger will now do. RIRC presented Elise with a book of RI photographs, "Rhode Island Ocean Sites & City Lights: A Collection of Photographs" by Stephanie Izzo, inscribed with a note of appreciation for all she has done for the RIRC. Because of her love for chickens, Elise also received the book: "Hello, Rhode Island!" by Martha Zschock. Elise will be missed!

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Mr. Galloway. Seconded by Paul Gonsalves. Meeting adjourned at 5:10.

Note added: The RIRC's Annual meeting made the front page of the Narragansett Times with an article by Allie Lewis (based on an interview of Chair Berounsky by Phil Cozzolino) on March 22, 2019