



Blackstone Watershed Collaborative Meeting Notes

May 20, 2022, 10am-12pm

Zoom <https://clarku.zoom.us/j/91977706024> Call: 646-876-9923 Meeting ID: 919 7770 6024

Attendees: David Tapscott, Deb Cary, Caitlin McLennan, Hillary B. King, Stefanie Covino, Peter Friedland, Kimberly Groff, Rebecca Quinones, Kellie King, Nick Cohen, Ray Kelley, Rep. Mary Keefe, Ted Beauvais, Emily Wood, Katie DeGoosh-DiMarzio, Phyllis Charpentier, Allison Hamel, Courtney Schmidt, Jen West, Camille Minns, Joseph Corazzini, Paul Mathisen, Peter Coffin, Donna Williams, Mark Nimiroski, Peter Friedland, Jennifer Hager, Bill Napolitano, Jessie Davis, Susan Gorelick

View recording:

<https://clarku.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=b914f95e-cc8a-429e-b3ef-ae9b010b099d>

1. Highlighting our Collaborators: Jeanine Silversmith, Executive Director, Rhode Island Environmental Education Association

- Goal is to improve environmental literacy and education for “K through grey” – for all children and adults! All the things we work on are part of RIEEA. There are 50 organizations that are supported by RIEEA, to promote public understanding. Several committees, such as advocacy, outreach.
- Ongoing program to assess environmental literacy of RI students – first in the nation to do so comprehensively
- There are 16 board members, looking for more and have monthly board meetings, with every third meeting as an open meeting. Annual summit.
- Next meeting is on 7/12 at Flatbread Pizza Co – an open meeting and a fundraiser! All pizza sales that day (even takeout) support RIEEA.
- New website coming soon & strategic planning process is ongoing now.

2. Special Presentation on Tufts Report: “Fostering Mutually Beneficial Partnerships in Climate Planning and Action in Massachusetts” <https://tufts.app.box.com/s/lqdsi2gfhsdymfnadxtubv4a890gio3h>

- How can we share best practices with RI’s Resilient Rhody program?
- Regional applications for MVP – how can we get municipalities together to focus on shared issues/solutions
 - RI: Burillville, Glocester, Lincoln (Smithfield applied)
 - Get addendum to add on to multiple communities as existing MVP plans for each community. There are lots of examples of this in Taunton watershed
 - Invite neighboring towns to MVP planning sessions

3. Subgroup Updates

- Municipal Resolutions Supporting Needs Assessment
 - Presented to Uxbridge CC, Mendon LUC; Northbridge BOS on 5/23
- ZAP 50th
 - Get social! Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ZAP50th>, Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/zap50th/>
- Bike/greenway
- Water quality
- University work
 - 6 universities have showcase on climate resilience on June 4 – Envision Narragansett
- Expedition 2022: Save the date! August 11-14, 2022
 - Festival on August 12, 4pm at River Bend Farm in Uxbridge in partnership with DCR
 - End of paddle speakers & celebration on August 14, 4pm at Narragansett Beer in Providence
 - Focus on diverse histories and cultural components of the river



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- Kristin McCaulif – teacher in Sutton to come on trip and importance of education

4. Partner Updates

- **Kittacuck Speaks** – successful event from Friends of the Blackstone! See the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=morPI5sxtTc>
- **City of Worcester** – job opening for planner & senior
 - **Event:** <https://tinyurl.com/WorcesterGHGevent>
 - **Job:** <http://www.worcesterma.gov/human-resources/employment-opportunities/job-details?thingDataId=XYS6TwDpVrmXEZM8PWBXIA>
 - **Job:** planner
 - **Event:** selling rain barrels <https://www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community/worcester/>
- **BRWA** had a successful annual meeting on Wed, 5/18 and viewing of Pakachoag: Where the River Bends
 - Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aj1dmIIDPnQ>
- **WPI** Paul Mathisen: Worcester focus of land use and NBS
 - Stef to connect to John Rogan & new interns
- **News:** varying perspectives on dam removal:
 - WCVB Chronicle piece on dam removal from last fall: The Division of Ecological Restoration is spearheading dam removal throughout Massachusetts: Dams can be found on just about every river in the Bay State. Some are enormous and serve the needs of millions while others crumble away. <https://www.wcvb.com/article/whats-the-dam-story-the-division-of-ecological-restoration-is-spearheading-dam-removal-throughout-massachusetts/37698209#>
 - March 1st piece on dam removal from WBUR: Many dams in Massachusetts are hazards. But demolishing them is no small feat. <https://www.wbur.org/news/2022/03/01/dams-river-massachusetts-demolish>

5. Discussion of Priority Projects & Criteria

- What are your priority projects for your organization or municipality? How do they overlap between groups? Do you know what they'll cost yet or where to start? Let's get our Collab priorities list going!
 - **Culvert Assessment:** Connect with Mark Nimiroski from RIDOT re: culvert assessment – one step beyond NAACC – allows you to batch upload to NAACC database & has additional parameters
 - i. <https://www.dot.ri.gov/about/stormwater.php>
 - ii. [https://www.dot.ri.gov/business/documents/Road Stream Crossing Design Manual 8 2021.pdf](https://www.dot.ri.gov/business/documents/Road_Stream_Crossing_Design_Manual_8_2021.pdf)
 - **Hopedale Daylighting:** Hopedale redevelopment & daylighting of Mill River and dam repair / incorporation of NBS
 - **Increase signage:** Grafton has installed new waterway crossing signs – opportunity to include \$ into grants into the future and work with other municipal highway depts to get more signage
 - **Restoration of Mumford River:** Connect munis around Mumford River to remove dams (at least 5 on river in states of disrepair) and restore river
 - i. Connect DER & MassWildlife on this topic!

Next meetings & Speakers

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June 17: Elisabeth Cianciola, Aquatic Mitigation Specialist, MA Department of Fish and Game



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July 15: **Patty Burke**, Pretreatment/Lab Technician, Upper Blackstone Clean Water

August 19: **Erica Holm**—Urban Naturalist, Mass Audubon

September 16 (*Speaker TBD*)

October 21 (*Speaker TBD*)

November 18 (*Speaker TBD*)

December 16 (*Speaker TBD*)

6. Events

- **June 4 – BRWA** hosting 7th Annual Family Fun Fishing Day at River Bend Farm on Sat, June 4 (rain date 6/5). 7th Annual Family Fun Fishing Day: Saturday, June 4: Please join us for a fun filled day of fishing, family and friends! We are seeking volunteers to help with this FREE event. Our biggest needs are assistance with set up/break down, and manning tables and fishing stations. If you would like to join the Planning Committee for this annual event or have any other skills, we would like to hear from you
- **Sunday June 5** – BVTC Rivers Day/Grand Opening of Central Falls Landing. Explorer will be running & kayaks/canoes available. <https://www.facebook.com/events/530876311756596>
- **Saturday, June 11** – Worcester Tercentennial Celebration (including tabling by Collab & Heritage Corridor and a parade walk with Worcester environmental groups!)
- **Sunday, June 4** – 30th annual National Trails Day! Lots of events happening; find one near you at <https://americanhiking.knack.com/national-trails-day#find-event/>
 - **None in the watershed, but two are close:** Bay State Trail Riders Association in Oxford, MA on 6/12 and Poloquin Woods historic foundation clean up in Hopkinton on 6/4
- **June 15** – ARPA Training Webinar. This free training offered by the MA Office of the Inspector General will give an overview of eligibility rules for fiscal recovery funds, limits on the use of ARPA funds and reporting requirements. Participants will also learn about applying Chapter 30B to ARPA funds; using collaborative and cooperative contracts, and complying with federal single audit requirements. Register before it fills up at: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/american-rescue-plan-act-arpa-training>
- **Tuesday June 21** – BVTC 5:30-7:00 open house & ribbon cutting of new office space & classrooms <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ej5t1nrr820bf367&oseq=&c=&ch=>

7. Grants:

- **MA EEA Planning Assistance Grants** – due 5/20
 - Technical assistance for municipalities and regional planning agencies to support planning & zoning to conserve and develop land consistent with the Massachusetts' Sustainable Development Principles.
 - <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/planning-assistance-grants>
- **Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Model RME Project**
 - To establish decentralized wastewater Responsible Management Entities (RMEs) in the SNEP region while also installing innovative/alternative septic systems. 1-2 projects chosen; \$2.3M available.
 - <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=339637>
 - Informational webinar 5/26

8. Job opportunities:

- **Restore America's Estuaries**
 - Grants Administrator managing SNEP Watershed Implementation Grants (SWIG). FT, \$50-58k. Arlington, VA or remote. 3 years experience.
 - <https://estuaries.org/grants-administrator/>



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- **Mass Association of Conservation Districts** (<https://massacd.wordpress.com/>)
 - Grants & Contracts Manager – 10-15 hrs/wk, \$30-40/hr, remote. Letter of interest & resume to MLeffMACD@gmail.com
- **EPA** – *coming soon!*
 - Check out www.usajobs.gov for new EPA scientist and engineering positions to be posted soon (per SNEP Network!)
- **MA Department of Environmental Protection** – Environmental Analyst III
<https://massanf.taleo.net/careersection/ex/jobdetail.ftl?job=220003H8>
- **Mass Audubon**
 - Senior Director, Nature in the City Program: <https://www.massaudubon.org/jobs/senior-director-nature-in-the-city-program>
 - Education Coordinator: <https://www.massaudubon.org/jobs/education-coordinator-community-engagement2>
 - Director of Ecological Restoration: <https://www.massaudubon.org/jobs/director-of-ecological-restoration>
- **Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council**
 - Green Infrastructure Steward (24 hrs/wk), River Ranger, Senior Civil or Environmental Engineer, English/Spanish Interpreter, Community Engagement Coordinator
 - <https://wrwc.org/wp/about/careers/>
- **Buzzards Bay Coalition**
 - Restoration Coordinator, Water Resource Specialist, Land Steward, Youth Program Assistant
 - <https://www.savebuzzardsbay.org/about-us/our-team/job-opportunities/>
- **Save the Pine Barrens**
 - Attorney: environmental, Native American Indian law. FT. Remote/in person Plymouth, MA
 - www.savethepinebarrens.org / environmentwatchsoutheasternma@gmail.com