



Blackstone Watershed Collaborative Meeting Notes

September 16, 2022, 10am-12pm

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

Attendees: Adam Menard, Hillary King, Ted Beauvais, John Marsland, Patty Burke, Gary Bechtholdt, MaryEllen Mateleska, Rebecca Quinones, Donna Williams, Allison Hamel, Arthur Plitt, Jessie Davis, Kellie King, Peter Friedland, Nick Cohen, Darcy Young, Dawn Rosser, Bryce Dubois, Patti McAlpine, JoAnne Holahan

Recording Available:

<https://clarku.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=08f34e44-bc47-4a1f-8787-af12010b1bb6>

Presentation by Ray Kelley on ZAP 50th

- [Presentation here](#)
- Provided an overview of participation on 8/27 clean up/green up as well as 9/10 celebration, including having over 2,000 participants and over 100 projects throughout the watershed
- Lessons and stewardship will continue to spread, and small groups can achieve great things
- Check out the clean up video at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Fm4wvnpVZLYoRCYzwy_YK9Tn_JVLdVx/view

Subgroup Updates

- Municipal Resolutions Supporting Needs Assessment
 - 9/12 Central Falls City Council – passed
 - 9/20 Worcester City Council presentation
- Bike/greenway (N/A)
- Water quality
 - Grant available from Mass DFW for land conservation and wetland restoration work to improve water quality: <https://www.mass.gov/in-lieu-fee-program>
 - Worcester CSO Facility Tour 9/29, register: <https://forms.gle/1doXRvBLPFBoUicY7>
 - BRWA is working on the issue of CSOs in Worcester. To learn more or become more involved, contact Ted at ted.beauvais@thebrwa.org
- University work
 - 10/20, 12:15-1:15pm at Clark: Workshop to get different university researchers/students together and see how research may assist implementation of the Needs Assessment Report/help the Collaborative's goals. In-person hands-on workshop <https://www.blackstonecollaborative.org/events/creating-practitioners-for-the-blackstone-watershed-bridging-academia-to-community-partnerships-for-climate-resilience>
- Water chestnut/invasives (N/A)
- Climate Change
 - Peter Friedland is interested in starting an active climate change working group focusing on the Blackstone Watershed. To join, contact pfriedland@worchester.edu

Partner Updates (see also: Events)

- The Collab will be hosting a small training for individuals interested in being certified to assess culverts under the [NAACC](#) protocol in October/early November, potentially in Northbridge. If interested, please contact Stef at scovino@clarku.edu Additional trainings will be held in the spring.
- Call to Action on the Moshassuck River – green space of Morley Field is proposing to be sold to a developer for parking, where another green space would be preserved on the Seekonk River as a trade. This parcel was protected with Land and Water Conservation Funds and requires DEM and NPS approval before the sale. Learn more: <https://ecori.org/pawtucket-has-plans-to-make-two-environmental-justice-neighborhoods-green-free/>



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- Special meeting of Pawtucket City Council on Monday 9/19 at 6pm to discuss this issue – you can attend in person or online to provide testimony, or email it to: cityclerk@pawtucketri.com
- Agenda: https://clerkshq.com/Pawtucket-ri?docId=AGENDA&path=Pawtucket_Docket%2CAGENDA%2C
- Join the meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82473267292>; password: C919C
- The Collaborative has received a \$25,000 grant from the Catalyst Fund to hire a part time person and assist with environmental justice outreach and long-term collaborative capacity and function
- Summary of public comments on Woonsocket comprehensive plan available [here](#); sign up for e-list here: <https://www.woonsocketplanning.com/get-involved>
- Several Blackstone watershed communities received MVP action grants from the Commonwealth, including Shrewsbury (\$90,000 for Regulatory Update for Sustainable Parking Requirements and \$100,000 for Climate Action and Resilience Plan); Sutton (\$75,000 for Manchaug Village Water Resource Resiliency Action Plan); Uxbridge (\$185,450 for Home Brew Dam and Whitin Pond Dam Removal); and Worcester (\$1,253,091 for Drainage and Green Infrastructure Master Plan). Congratulations to our municipal partners! Read more at <https://www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-awards-over-32-million-in-climate-change-funding-to-cities-and-towns-bringing-total-investment-to-100-million>
- The [Spotted Lanternfly](#) has officially been spotted in Worcester. Please be on the lookout and report any sightings to MDAR at <https://massnrc.org/pests/slfreport.aspx> (and capture/preserve them in alcohol or in the freezer). These pests are often found on invasive tree-of-heaven as well as grapevines, hops, and fruit trees.



Egg mass with gray, putty-like protective covering (about 1 inch long, and laid on any smooth, flat surface)



SLF nymph, 2nd instar (1st instar looks similar but is slightly smaller)

SLF nymph, 3rd instar

SLF nymph, final instar

SLF adult at rest, side view

SLF in flight, bright red underwings exposed

Upcoming Events

- **September 19** – 6pm Pawtucket City Council meeting to discuss potential development of Morley Field. Provide testimony by emailing cityclerk@pawtucketri.com or join the meeting in person at City Hall or online via <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82473267292>; password: C919C
- **September 21** – NBEP – “Vision 2032” meeting to think about long term plans for improved habitat, water quality, etc. Free event and includes lunch, but registration required <https://forms.gle/KYkeEerFbXkRbdvba>
- **September 22** – Integrated Planning Workshop with EPA, 10am-12pm, registration required: <https://go.unc.edu/SNEworkshop>
- **September 22** - 6:30pm outdoor screening of [Kittacuck Speaks](#) at Slater Mill/Blackstone River Valley National Historic Park (67 Roosevelt Ave, Pawtucket, RI 02860) <https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/event-details.htm?id=BED8BCC0-E81C-0708-14445F19A927C390>



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- **September 29** – Worcester CSO Facility Tour. 9:30am, Registration required (limited to 15): <https://forms.gle/1doXRvBLPFBoUicY7>
- **October 7** – Plastic pollution from source to sea full day symposium, hosted by Narragansett Bay Estuary Program – where it comes from, how it impacts habitat and species from the headwaters to the Bay. Open to all, including advocates, researchers, regulators, and practitioners. Free, includes breakfast/lunch. Register: <https://www.nbep.org/plastics-event-2022>
- **October 13** – Mass Association of Floodplain Managers (MassFM) Conference in person (Milford, MA) <https://www.massfm.org/upcomingevents>
- **October 20** – University Collaboration workshop to connect local research to regional climate resilience and water quality goals. 9/20, 12:15-1:15pm at Clark University – <https://www.blackstonecollaborative.org/events/creating-practitioners-for-the-blackstone-watershed-bridging-academia-to-community-partnerships-for-climate-resilience>
- **October 21** - next Collaborative meeting!
- **October 24** – 3:30pm tour of Upper Blackstone wastewater treatment facility with Worcester Division of Sustainability and Resilience; contact Jessie to register: DavisJ@worcesterma.gov (limited to 20)
- **October 27** – Save the Date! In-person bylaw review training workshop in Middleboro, MA <https://www.blackstonecollaborative.org/events/making-local-regulations-climate-resilient>
- **October 30** – Intertribal gathering on Fish Passage Kickoff at 1pm. Friends of the Blackstone is working with Narragansett Indian Tribe to host an intertribal gathering at Slater Mill/Blackstone River Valley National Historic Park to focus on creating fish passage around the lower four dams on the river. This is a kick off, educational event where we'll be distributing paper herring for kids to color and adults to learn about this critical cultural and ecological opportunity. There will be music, crafts, and more! <https://www.facebook.com/events/1401902716885867?ref=newsfeed>

Grants

- **MA Department of Fish and Game's In-Lieu Fee Program** – land conservation or aquatic resource restoration projects (all of Blackstone in MA is eligible). Municipalities, non-governmental organizations, and state agencies are eligible to apply. Contact Aisling O'Shea at aisling.oshea@mass.gov for more info or to apply. Materials are also available on COMMBUYS under BD-23-1046-COM-COM4-77929. <https://www.mass.gov/in-lieu-fee-program>
- **MEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)** – (FEMA-4496-DR-MA-HMGP) – Final state deadline **December 5, 2022**. Grants are 90% federal, 10% local (non-federal) cost-sharing. \$110,760,576 available statewide for mitigation projects with ong-term, cost-effective improvements that reduce, minimize or eliminate risk to people and property from the effects of natural hazards, including property acquisition, structure elevation, flood risk reduction, innovative mitigation projects, and others as well as new HM plans, updates, planning activities, and project scoping/advance assistance.

Job opportunities:

- **City of Worcester**
 - Department of Sustainability & Resilience
 - Energy Analyst \$64,117 - \$78,121/yr FT <http://www.worcesterma.gov/human-resources/employment-opportunities/job-details?thingDataId=ITw43vt2d4FZY6jkueJqsQ>



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- Senior Manager of Energy Services \$91,124 - \$120,344/yr FT
<http://www.worcesterma.gov/human-resources/employment-opportunities/job-details?thingDataId=iRIXInHodk-18hNaB13Ylg>
- Department of Public Works (**environmental majors encouraged to apply** – no need to be an engineer, despite the description!)
 - Water/Sewer Operations, Junior Civil Engineer (G3) \$30.87-\$37.62/hr FT
<https://www.worcesterma.gov/human-resources/employment-opportunities/job-details?thingDataId=N-prqzVaDiCosh2SH23Gzw>
- Planning & Regulatory Services
 - Senior Planner \$68,500 - \$81,753, FT
<https://www.worcesterma.gov/human-resources/employment-opportunities/job-details?thingDataId=8kyOZIXzwPad62ihG0hQxA>
 - Administrative Assistant \$23.33 - \$28.27/hr, FT
https://www.worcesterma.gov/human-resources/employment-opportunities/job-details?thingDataId=d3_ZvzGiaO3zFYwS8609ow
- **Audubon Society of RI**
 - Executive Director: https://asri.org/file_download/inline/15c1ee39-eea1-4ece-bd74-6bfd66aeddd9
- **RI Conservation District**
 - Civil Engineer Technician. FT hourly starting at \$21/hr. Warwick, RI
<https://www.easternriconservation.org/job-postings/blog-post-title-one-58aje>
- **Conservation Law Foundation**
 - Great Bay 2030 Manager. Lead and coordinate a coalition of conservation and environmental organizations working collaboratively to achieve the shared vision of Great Bay 2030. Ability to commute to NH. 5 years' academic/professional experience
 - Learn more or apply by emailing Kaylee Keim at kkeim@bridgepointassociates.net
- **Mass Association of Conservation Districts** (<https://massacd.wordpress.com/employment/>)
 - Grants & Contracts Manager – 10-15 hrs/wk, \$30-40/hr, remote. Letter of interest & resume to MLeffMACD@gmail.com

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!
 - Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)
 - Drought
 - Accessibility and Inclusion in Meetings/Decision Making
 - Poor Farm Brook Dam Removal in Worcester
 - Education
 - Fish passage
 - Recreational Access
 - Invasives
 - Flooding/nature based solutions
 - Culvert Assessment

Next meetings & Speakers

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

October 21, 2022: Colleen Keenan sharing information on her National Park Service environmental education guide to the Blackstone

November 18, 2022 (Speaker TBD)



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December 16, 2022 (*Speaker TBD*)

January 20, 2023 (*Speaker TBD*)