



Blackstone Watershed Collaborative Meeting Notes

October 21, 2022, 10am-12pm

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

Attendees: Bill Napolitano, Allison Hamel, Jen Hager, Ian Cullings, Andrew Rosser, Dawn Rosser, Peter Coffin, David Tapscott, Colleen Keenan, Hillary King, Deb Cary, Kellie King, Adam Menard, Karla Sangrey, Katie Liming, Colleen Keenan, John Marsland, Julia Berkson, Ted Beauvais, Stefanie Covino, Donna Williams, Peter Friedland, Karen Bradbury (Sen. Whitehouse Office), Greg Doerschler, Anne Armstrong, Cay Denherder, Jessie Davis, Sarah Bower, Paul Popinchalk

Recording Available:

<https://clarku.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=5a4cde66-861e-4207-94c1-af350104b9b0>

Presentation by Colleen Keenan sharing information on her National Park Service environmental education Guide to the Blackstone

- Resource was made for NPS rangers, but also useful for much broader audience – NPS will share on their website & Stef will share through the Collab’s website too.
- Comments included:
 - John asked that herring be highlighted as an anadromous species vs. shad, as fish passage that we’re working on currently highlights herring passability.
 - Donna asked that the Blackstone River Coalition’s campaign for a fishable/swimmable river be included in history for environmental advocacy (learn more at zaptheblackstone.org or contact dwilliamsbrc@aol.com)
 - Dawn Rosser noted that she has extensive 70s ZAP history from first hand accounts that can be incorporated, or created as its own historical document. Contact dawn.eliz@yahoo.com
 - Stef will share photos, including of the water chestnut
- Learn more or share your comments with Colleen at colleenkeen77@gmail.com or Julia Berkson at jberkson.jb@gmail.com

Subgroup Updates

- Municipal Resolutions Supporting Needs Assessment
 - 9/20 Worcester City Council presentation referred to committee
 - 11/28 Auburn Select Board 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>
 - Last WQ monitoring of the season is in Nov
 - BRWA is working to connect with the City of Worcester on their educational strategy and scope of services for the consultant currently reviewing CSO opportunities. Ted will follow up with Deb Cary & Stef Covino on potentially setting up a meeting to discuss these in person.
- University work
 - Recently held academia/practitioner roundtable at Clark on 10/20; follow ups included a potential to integrate more Collaborative GIS requests into current student research (put your ideas [here!](#)); potential for the Collab partners (student/researchers) to provide additional technical assistance to municipalities and nonprofits; the potential to use capstone/independent research to support the Collaborative’s/partners’ needs.
- Other: Water chestnut/invasives, climate group: N/A



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Partner Updates

- **MassFM – Association of Floodplain Managers** – Stef recently presented to the annual conference on floodplain management for non-floodplain managers. They're looking for new members with floodplain practitioners from Central MA– please reach out to Noah Slovin, Senior Resilience Manager at SLR at nslovin@slrconsulting.com
 - [See the presentation here](#) (uploaded to the “[News](#)” section on the website)
- **Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Association (RIFMA)** was formed In October 2006. The goal of the organization is to form a network of associates who could bring their ideas and experiences to a forum for people to share and learn from. The result of the Association is a network of floodplain managers who can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of all aspects of floodplain management in the State of Rhode Island. If you would like to join our [membership](#), please visit our website. Once a month we have [Flood Talk Fridays](#) where we invite presentations and discussion on topics ranging from NOAA National Flood Maps, flood insurance, to local flood mitigation and adaptation projects. Our next one is on October 28, 12 PM: [Flood Talk Friday with Bob DeSaulniers on Risk Rating 2.0](#): Oct. 28, 12 PM (Zoom) \$10 registration
- **Worcester’s Lakes & Ponds Program** recently installed two boat decontamination stations to stop the spread of invasive plants. Learn more in this [Blue Space Minute video!](#)
- **Worcester - Community science project** – Worcester is looking for professors, teachers, students, etc. to gather data during large storm events regarding flooding, etc. Working to create a stormwater model w/ engineers. Details still forthcoming, but please reach out to Jessie at greenworcester@worcesterma.gov if you'd like to learn more!
- **Sutton** – The town received a \$75,000 MVP Action Grant to create a Manchaug Village Water Resource Resiliency Action Plan. There will be a listening session soon to share your thoughts and ideas. To learn more, contact Jen Hager, Town Planner, at j.hager@town.sutton.ma.us
- **Regional Conservation Partnerships:** The Collaborative was recently recognized as being a Regional Conservation Partnership by the Highstead Foundation and is currently being added to the official network of Northeastern US (and some Canadian) groups that are working together to increase the pace and practice of landscape conservation across municipal, state and regional boundaries. Learn more about RCPs here: <https://wildlandsandwoodlands.org/rcpnetwork/>
- **Mass Rivers** has created an Explore Your Rivers tool on our website that includes an interactive GIS (scroll down on this page - <https://www.massriversalliance.org/explore-your-rivers>) which has boat access points and other info for recreation. We also have a specific Blackstone River page with more access info (<https://www.massriversalliance.org/blackstone-river>). If you have info to add, please contact Sarah Bower at sarahbower@massriversalliance.org
- **Mass Rivers** also has a web app viewer of water usage (SWMI – Sustainable Water Management Initiative): <https://mass-eoeea.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c4fd3ee7ab5544bbaa9d81eb47ffbc7a>

Collaborative Logistics

Speakers for 2023:

- Sign up to be a speaker for 2023 meetings at: <https://forms.gle/ybgyhvSt8WhiRN4m9>

Meeting Schedule:

- We had a Mentimeter poll asking whether participants wanted to keep meetings to monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly. While the group was quite divided, most wanted to have bi-monthly meetings. **Our next meeting will still be November 18, but we will SKIP December’s meeting and meet again on January 20, 2023.**

Newsletter?



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- Similarly, folks were pretty divided over keeping the notes format as-is or transitioning to a newsletter. I'd like to try both if I can get some student help creating a newsletter. More to come!

GIS projects & Learning Opportunities:

- We used a Jamboard to discuss potential GIS projects to support our work. Have an idea of a map you'd like?
 - **Add ideas here:** <https://jamboard.google.com/d/1UyeykwEfoee0AgSyAoUR-wFKNyQPFxyTrTVmHwpylJI/edit?usp=sharing>
 - **Ideas** included: ownership of buffer to the river to ID access points; previous riverine wetlands that were filled and offer an opportunity for restoration; map showing all water quality monitoring data locations and links to the data; detailed map of local tri-river aquifers/uxbridge; ID locations where river signage/interpretation exists and is needed; location of water chestnut infestations with information about them such as size, treatment plan, etc.
- Are there other topics of interest that you'd like to learn more about?
 - **Add your ideas on page 2:** <https://jamboard.google.com/d/1UyeykwEfoee0AgSyAoUR-wFKNyQPFxyTrTVmHwpylJI/edit?usp=sharing>
 - Ideas such as Stormwater/MS4 101 and SWMI/water inputs and withdrawals were ideas that came up.
 - i. **Note:** Mass Rivers also has a web app viewer of water usage (SWMI – Sustainable Water Management Initiative): <https://mass-eoea.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c4fd3ee7ab5544bbaa9d81eb47ffbc7a>

Next meetings (Speakers TBD)

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

November 18, 2022 / December 16, 2022 / January 20, 2023 / February 17 / March 17, 2023

Events

- **October 24** – 3pm tour of Upper Blackstone wastewater treatment facility with Worcester Division of Sustainability and Resilience; contact Jessie to register: DavisJ@worcesterma.gov (limited space available)
- **October 27** – 9:30-1:30 Are your bylaws climate resilient? In-person bylaw review training workshop in Middleboro, MA <https://www.blackstonecollaborative.org/events/making-local-regulations-climate-resilient>
- **October 30** – 1-3pm Intertribal gathering – Be the Voice of Kittacuck & Bring Herring Back to the Blackstone. 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, speakers, 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



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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.
- **MIT SeaGrant** has developed a new grant program to offer one-year funding opportunities to a host of MA applicants for an amount < \$10,000. STREAM proposals are designed for faculty and student applicants from Massachusetts universities, P-12 educators, individuals and artists working with museums and nonprofit organizations, and many others! Learn more at seagrant.mit.edu/stream
- **Federal Highway Administration:** Funding for culvert projects that improve or restore habitat access for sea run (anadromous) fish species. Municipalities, states and tribes are eligible to apply. Because of its focus on improving habitat for specific fish stocks, interested applicants should review the program details carefully to evaluate whether their project may be competitive. Please see the description and link below from the FHWA website. <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=343962>

Job opportunities:

- **EPA Region 1** (Stormwater Permitting) Environmental Engineer/Physical Scientist (closing date **10/25!**) <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/683326500>
- **MA Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs:**
 - Coastal Zone Management (CZM): Offshore Project Review Specialist <https://massanf.taleo.net/careersection/ex/jobdetail.ftl?job=220008T0>
 - Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program: Deputy Director <https://massanf.taleo.net/careersection/ex/jobdetail.ftl?job=22000AYF>
 - Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) Restoration Partnerships Program Manager <https://massanf.taleo.net/careersection/ex/jobdetail.ftl?job=220008MX>
- **RI Infrastructure Bank**
 - Junior Financial Analyst position. [Full job description here](#). Cover letters and resumes to careers@riib.org.
- **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>
 - 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>



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- Planning & Regulatory Services
 - Senior Planner \$68,500 - \$81,753, FT
<https://www.worcesterma.gov/human-resources/employment-opportunities/job-details?thingDataId=8ky0ZIXzwPad62ihG0hQxA>
 - 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-eaa1-4ece-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