

September 15, 2022, 10am-12pm

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

### Attendees

Greg Doerschler, Kate McPherson, Kellie King, Cay DenHerder, Sarah Plutnicki, Ted Beauvais, Heather Parry, Caleigh McLaren, Stefanie Covino, Darcy Young, Josh Hall, Adam Menard, Julia Chun, Christina Charie, Kassandra Florez, Donna Williams, Michael Wilkinson, David Tapscott, John Marsland, Susie Bresney, Bill Napolitano, Rebecca Quinones, Peter Coffin, Hillary King, Nick Cohen, Kevin Rice

### **Recording Available**

https://clarku.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=f28b5a0e-58dd-4523-9251-b07e01028555

Presentation by <u>Kevin Rice</u>, Management and Program Analyst, Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park

- Slater Mill Historic Park was established in 2014, but the National Park Service didn't take over until 2021
- National Park Service owns/operates:
  - Easement on Blackstone River State Park and Ashton Historic Park (they don't own these properties but they have a good relationship with owners)
  - Slatersville Historic District
  - Whitinsville Historic District
  - The Little Red Shop Local Historic District
  - o Old Slater Mill National Historic Landmark District
- The Draper Factory in Hopedale was demolished; this is an example of how important it is to preserve these areas through historic districts or designations
- National Park Service does not own the Slater Mill Dam (yet); Old Slater Mill Association owns it including the area that the fish passage would be built on they're currently pursuing ownership, but it's a long process
- National Park Service cares about:
  - Community engagement
    - Tribal relations
    - Telling the story of the Blackstone region pre-contact and post-contact
    - Opportunities of beneficial environmental actions for the river and valley
    - Finding and creating opportunities for collaboration with partners
    - Presentation and conservation of natural and cultural resources
    - Recreational opportunities on the Blackstone River
- NPS works with various universities, historical societies, environmental NGOs, and more
- Their <u>General Management Plan and Environmental Assessment</u> is open to comment now. Click <u>here</u> to submit your comment

### Subgroup Updates

- Bike/greenway
  - Woonsocket is working to expand a town greenway with stormwater management best practices along Truman Bypass. Check out this <u>article</u> to learn more.
- University work
  - The Collaborative is again working with Holy Cross Professor Bryce DuBois on the course "Contested Waterways" to help students explore CSO in Worcester, including public awareness and education.
- Fish passage



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- Don't forget to <u>register</u> for NBEP's Annual Biodiversity Symposium: <u>Wild Things in the Narragansett Bay</u> on 10/6! The keynote speaker will be John Waldman, author of <u>Running Silver: Restoring Atlantic Rivers</u> <u>and Their Great Fish Migrations</u>
- DEM is submitting an application to NOAA's Notice of Funding Opportunity to fund fish passage and outreach around fish passage in RI more to come!
- Water quality
  - Learn more about treating your wastewater at the Upper Blackstone Clean Water Tour with the Collaborative on 9/21! <u>More info here</u> & register. NOTE: Canceled due to lack of registrants.

### Partner Updates

- Blackstone Valley National Historical Park is hosting three public meetings on their General Management Plan join and help shape the goals and future of our local national park! Comment period open through 10/11. <u>https://parkplanning.nps.gov/BlackstoneGMP</u>
  - In-Person Public Meeting #1: Wednesday, September 13, 2023. Presentations are scheduled for 7:15 pm and 8:15 pm. Location: Old Stater Mill, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 67 Roosevelt Ave., Pawtucket, RI 02860
  - Virtual Public Meeting: Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.
  - In-Person Public Meeting #2: Thursday, September 14, 2023. Presentations are scheduled for 7:15 pm and 8:15 pm. Location: Open Sky Visitor Center Auditorium at the Whitin Mill, 50 Douglas Road, Whitinsville, MA 01588
- Mass Audubon launches Growing Solar: Protecting Nature learn more on 10/2 at 11am to hear how key
  changes to policy incentives and land use planning, Massachusetts can meet our ambitious goals for solar while
  protecting the majority of natural and working lands. <u>Zoom, register here</u>.
- **DEP's** 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Nonpoint Source Management Forum is coming up 9/20! Get an overview of DEP's water quality grant programs and hear from Mystic River Watershed Association's experience managing stormwater with infiltration trenches. Zoom. 9:30am-12:30pm
- MACC is seeking <u>Environmental Service Awards</u> nominations. Each spring we host an amazing Awards Ceremony for deserving award winners. Send your nominations for deserving individuals to MACC: <u>staff@maccweb.org</u>
- Sowams Heritage Area hosted the third annual Pokanoket Heritage Day on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The event celebrates the Pokanoket culture through singing, dancing, and story telling that has its roots in the 10,000 year history of the Tribe. <u>Click here</u> for a 12-minute video of the event.
- **RI Infrastructure Bank** three new municipalities join the RI Municipal Resilience Program: the City of Cranston, the Town of Johnston, and the Town of West Warwick, bringing the total to 35/39 municipalities.
- Women on the Land Keystone Program accepting applications through 9/22! <u>Apply here</u> for an opportunity to join an intensive, 3-day retreat style training program focusing on forest and wildlife conservation at Harvard Forest in Petersham, MA from October 26 (evening start) 29 (through afternoon).
- Friends of the Blackstone Blackstone River Watershed Council will be co-hosting an Intertribal Gathering with the Narragansett and Nipmuc Tribes at Slater Mill Historic Site on Sunday October 22 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Blackstone River Watershed Association Job opportunity to oversee fieldwork and lab work in water quality monitoring
- Save the Bay
  - Provided a letter of support to City of Woonsocket for SOAR to improve the sediment in Cass Pond (the Collaborative also provided a letter)
- Blackstone River Coalition
  - <u>New website!</u> Clickable map is coming soon and will be the October speaker!



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- Conservation Law Foundation sued a Millbury scrap facility violating their stormwater permit, resulting in Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) being awarded to three entities (dispersed by November)
  - \$50,000 to Blackstone River Watershed Council to improve access at Granite Park in Pawtucket
  - \$50,000 to Blackstone River Watershed Association for education and outreach
  - \$50,000 to Blackstone River Coalition to continue water quality work
  - These funds will be dispersed by November
- Join Mass ECAN, MVP & DER for a series of field trips showcasing climate adaptation and watershed-scale collaboration
  - Mystic River Field Trip: Join us for a boat tour of the Lower Mystic River leaving from Charlestown, Boston, and hosted by MyRWA. We'll hear from community partners about a variety of adaptation projects addressing extreme heat, flooding, access to green space, and environmental justice. Friday, October 13, 2023, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Meeting address and other details will be provided in a confirmation email upon registration. Register <u>here</u>.
  - Mattapoisett River Valley Field Trip: Learn about coordinated multi-town watershed land conservation efforts as well as a large wetland/stream ecological restoration project. These projects buffer flooding and drought and enhance the resilience of a regionally important drinking water supply, fish/wildlife resources, outdoor recreation opportunities and local agriculture. October 24<sup>th</sup>. Register <u>here</u>.
- CMRPC \$300k received from EPA through MVP 2.0 program for Uxbridge, Sutton, Douglas, and Northbridge. This will fund a study into how climate change and more intense weather will affect infrastructure and social life in these communities. CMRPC needs community liaisons for this project. Email Sarah Plutnicki (splutnicki@cmrpc.org) for more information.
- **MVP** is looking to fill the <u>Regional Coordinator position in the Berkshires and Hilltowns region</u>, if you know anyone who might like to work with the program, please share with your networks!

#### Next meetings

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

October 20, 2023: Peter Coffin and Heather Parry from the Blackstone River Coalition showing their new interactive water quality mapping tool and new website. November 17, 2023: TBD December 15, 2023: TBD

### Legislative/Policy Updates

- <u>Healey-Driscoll Administration Awards \$31.5 Million in Climate Resiliency Funds to Communities</u>, including CMRPC on behalf of the Blackstone communities of Uxbridge, Sutton, Douglas, and Northbridge; as well as the Hassanamisco Band of Nipmuc. Congratulations to our partners!
- The Massachusetts Climate Assessment team developed social media slides you can use to get the main findings of the Assessment out to your audiences and communities. Check it out and learn how to share the resources.
- Mass Audubon is asking for support for the Connecticut River Watershed Partnership Act (CRWPA), which will
  create permanent federal funding for conservation, ecological restoration, education, and recreation in
  the Connecticut River Watershed. The Connecticut River stretches from Quebec to Long Island Sound just west
  of the Blackstone and supplies drinking water to over 4.8 million people, and provides essential habitat for
  threatened and endangered species like the Piping Plover and the Short-nosed Sturgeon. Help this bill get
  passed by reaching out to Rep. McGovern, Rep. Richard Neal, Senator Ed Markey, and Senator Elizabeth Warren
  to thank them for supporting this legislation.



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### Tools You Can Use! Tools & Resources

- <u>New resource on solar and land use</u> from Mass Audubon. Learn more at the launch on 10/2 at 11am. <u>Zoom,</u> register here.
- <u>Massachusetts' MVP 2.0 website is now live</u>! MVP 2.0 is a grant for municipalities to revisit their climate resilience priorities with a focus on equity and translate those priorities into action.
- EPA's new Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants program (Community Change Grants) will invest approximately \$2 billion dollars in Inflation Reduction Act funds in environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to respond to environmental and climate justice challenges.
  - These place-based investments will be focused on community-driven initiatives to be responsive to community and stakeholder input. They are designed to deliver on the transformative potential of the IRA for communities most adversely and disproportionately impacted by climate change, legacy pollution, and historical disinvestments.
  - EPA's <u>Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights</u> plans to issue the Community Change Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in early autumn 2023.
  - o <u>Learn more here</u>.
- Did you know? DEP has a map of all CSO outfalls and recreation points in Massachusetts. <u>Check it out here</u>.
- In 2020, both MA and RI created new State Forest Action Plans!
  - Check out the Massachusetts State Forest Action Plan's storymap here, or see the full plan here.
    - Explore Rhode Island's State Forest Action plan <u>here</u>.

### **Events**

- August 22-September 11, 2023 Did you miss out? We're hosting some additional days! Contact Caleigh McLaren at <u>cmclaren@clarku.edu</u> to schedule your certification. <u>Culvert Assessment Trainings</u> in Northbridge, MA. The Blackstone Watershed Collaborative and the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission are offering NAACC Culvert Assessment Certification this summer 2023. Please note that this certification requires a 1.5-hour online training on your own, plus three days of field work with a certified coordinator.
- September 6, 2023 at 10am RI Infrastructure Bank is hosting a webinar/workshop on upcoming municipal infrastructure funding opportunities through the Municipal Resilience Program, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Clean/Drinking Water projects, and others! <u>Register here</u>.
- September 13-14, 2023 Blackstone Valley National Historical Park is hosting three public meetings on their General Management Plan join and help shape the goals and future of our local national park! Comment period open through 10/11. <a href="https://parkplanning.nps.gov/BlackstoneGMP">https://parkplanning.nps.gov/BlackstoneGMP</a>
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- September 14, 2023 <u>MACC Young Professionals Fall Networking Kick-Off Event</u>. Hosted at the Craft Food Halls
   Revolution Hall in Lexington, Massachusetts Revolution Hall. Begins at 6:00pm.
- September 18, 2023 <u>Blackstone River Watershed Association Meeting</u> is being held at the Grafton Public Library Common room on 9/18, 6:30-8:30. The business meeting will begin at 6:30, and Emily Vogler will present



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her work on the Dam Atlas at 7:00. This meeting is open to public, and there will be an event flyer coming soon. Click <u>here</u> to register for the event.

- September 20, 2023 <u>DEP's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Nonpoint Source Management Forum</u> Get an overview of DEP's water quality grant programs and hear from Mystic River Watershed Association's experience managing stormwater with infiltration trenches. Zoom. 9:30am-12:30pm
- September 20, 2023 <u>Nature-based approaches field trip</u> (Falmouth, MA). Join the Stone Living Lab, Woods Hole Group, and MA Office of Coastal Zone Management about how nature-based approaches (NBA) like cobble berms can be used to enhance and protect coastlines from storm surge and sea level rise.
- September 21, 2023 9-11am, Tour the Upper Blackstone Clean Water Facility with the Collaborative! See more and register here.
- October 2, 2023 11am via Zoom. Mass Audubon launch of *Growing Solar: Protecting Nature* learn how key changes to policy incentives and land use planning can allow Massachusetts to meet our ambitious goals for solar while protecting the majority of natural and working lands. <u>register here</u>.
- October 4-5, 2023 Summit for Action's Equity in Conservation and Outreach Summit Virtually brings together leaders and key stakeholders, and features a mix of planned conference sessions and facilitated group deep dives intended to help organizations build diversity in conservation and outdoor recreation movements and increase community impact Participants will engage in dialogue and agenda-building sessions. There will also be small group sessions and opportunities for collaboration to design real world solutions. Note: October 5 is in person in Denver, CO.
- October 6, 2023 <u>NBEP Annual Symposium</u> is focused this year on regional biodiversity: Wild Things in the Narragansett Bay. 8am-5pm, free, with breakfast and lunch provided with registration. The keynote speaker will be John Waldman, author of <u>Running Silver: Restoring Atlantic Rivers and Their Great Fish Migrations</u>. It will be held at Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI
- October 11-12, 2023 <u>Salazar Center for North American Landscape Conservation Symposium</u> in Denver, CO. This event will focus on nature-positive solutions and how they can catalyze better outcomes for climate, biodiversity, and human well-being.
- October 13, 2023 <u>Mystic River Field Trip</u>. Join us for a boat tour of the Lower Mystic River leaving from Charlestown, Boston, and hosted by MyRWA. We'll hear from community partners about a variety of adaptation projects addressing extreme heat, flooding, access to green space, and environmental justice. 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Meeting address and other details will be provided in a confirmation email upon registration. Register <u>here</u>.
- October 21, 2023 <u>Town Forest Conference in Ashland</u>. Join the DCR and the Town of Ashland for a day of
  informational speakers, refreshments, food, and a family friendly walk through Ashland Town Forest. Register
  for the event <u>here</u>.
- October 22, 2023 Intertribal Gathering. The Blackstone River Watershed Council will be co-hosting an Intertribal Gathering with the Narragansett and Nipmuc Tribes at the Slater Mill Historic Site from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- October 23, 2023 <u>Mass Floodplain Managers (massFM) Annual Conference</u>. This technical program includes topics in Riverine/Coastal Floodplain Management, Climate Resiliency and Adaptation, Ecological Restoration, Nature Based Solutions, Innovative Stormwater Management, Permitting, Lessons Learned, and Community Outreach.
- October 24, 2023 <u>Mattapoisett River Valley Field Trip</u>. Learn about coordinated multi-town watershed land conservation efforts as well as a large wetland/stream ecological restoration project. These projects buffer flooding and drought and enhance the resilience of a regionally important drinking water supply, fish/wildlife resources, outdoor recreation opportunities and local agriculture.



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- October 24-25, 2023 <u>Living Shorelines Tech Transfer Workshop</u> hosted by Restore America's Estuaries and Galveston Bay Foundation in Galveston, TX. This event is a unique platform to learn, engage, and exchange knowledge with professionals, experts, and stakeholders in the field of coastal and estuarine habitat restoration.
- October 26, 2023 <u>Dam Removal & Ecological Restoration 101 Training</u> at Clark University in Worcester, MA. This program will offer an overview of best practices, resources, and answering common questions, with half of the day dedicated to a hands-on charette. Audience: Local champions, watershed organizers, government officials, engineers, planners, and others providing community technical assistance.
- October 28, 2023 MACC Fall Conference in Devens, MA. Join conservation commissioners, conservation agents, environmental officials, consultants, attorneys, students, activists, and others in learning, asking, understanding, and networking.
- November 9, 2023 <u>Regional Conservation Partnership (RCP) Conference</u> at UMass Amherst. This event is designed to bring together people advancing collaborative landscape conservation in the Northeastern U.S. and beyond.
- January 2024 <u>The Community Based Social Marketing workshop</u> will be held in January, (date TBD). Email <u>Judith.rondeau@mass.gov</u> for more information.
- March 2, 2024 <u>MACC Annual Environmental Conference 2024</u> Save the date for this fabulous spring conference at The College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. They are currently seeking wetland and climate related workshop proposals for this event.
- May 13-16, 2024 <u>River Rally</u> in Grand Rapids, MI. This event combats feelings of isolation, overwhelm, and burnout for network members working at the intersection of water and justice by building knowledge and skills, diversifying perspectives and solutions, recognizing achievements within the network, and strengthening connections.
- May 14-16, 2024 <u>National Adaptation Forum</u> in Saint Paul, MN. This event is a bi-annual convening for adaptation professionals to innovate, network, and focus on established and emerging climate adaptation issues of the day.
- October 6-10, 2024 <u>Restore America's Estuaries Conference</u> in Washington, DC. This is the premier event for policy makers, practitioners, and managers in the United States to explore the latest research, policy, and practice in coastal restoration.

### Grants

- 9/8/23 <u>SNEP Network Stormwater Planning Series</u> Open to municipalities and tribes (organizations may also apply and work with munis/tribes) looking to solve a stormwater issue in the SE New England region (all of the Blackstone is eligible). Free technical assistance for groups committing to participation at monthly meetings over six months, with an end product of a preliminary design for a BMP to solve the stormwater challenge.
- 9/15/23 <u>SNEP Opportunity to Advance Resilience</u> This grant will fund projects that improve climate resiliency throughout high priority disadvantaged communities in Southeast New England. The SNEP-SOAR program is intended to support a wide range of project types: planning, implementation, outreach, training, and capacity building/staffing.
- 9/21/23 <u>Conservation Alliance Confluence Program</u> The Program awards four grants to groups led by Asian, Black, Brown, Hispanic, Indigenous, Latin American, or additional communities who identify as People of Color working to protect a natural place. Each grantee receives \$100,000 over a two-year period (\$50,000 per year) for their effort to protect or conserve land and/or water to foster a planet where natural places, wildlife, and people thrive together.
- 10/16/23 Including Indigenous Knowledge in Ocean and Coastal Decision Making The Lenfest Ocean Program is seeking proposals for projects that "elevate Indigenous Peoples in sharing their traditions, culture,



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knowledge, and wisdom to improve evidence-based decision-making for the management, conservation, and restoration of coastal marine species, habitats, and ecosystems." Proposals should support "identification, analysis, and/or communication of Indigenous Knowledge and wisdom (where it is culturally appropriate) and approaches that allow this knowledge to inform ocean and coastal management decisions."

- 11/8/23 <u>Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grant</u> Aims to provide federal financial and technical assistance to fish passage through the removal of dams and other in-stream barriers for native migratory or sea-run fish.
- 11/8/23 <u>Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grant</u> Aims to provide federal financial and technical assistance to Indian tribes and organizations that represent Indian tribes through formal legal agreements to remove barriers to fish passage.
- 11/30/23 USDA Landscape Scale Restoration Grants funds collaborative, science-based restoration of priority rural forest landscapes, leverages public and private resources, and supports State Forest Action Plans. State agencies, federally recognized tribes, nonprofits, universities, and local governments may apply.
- Rolling through 4/4/24 <u>MassCEC's EmPower Massachusetts</u> offers multiple stages of investment in communities and community-based organizations so that they can explore, develop, and implement program models or projects that provide access to the benefits of clean energy for previously underserved populations. This MassCEC program crowd-sources new and innovative ideas, then helps put them into action.
- Rolling As Available <u>AMC Waters and Rivers Protection Fund</u> Receive up to \$10,000 to fund a project that supports the protection and understanding of our region's water resources, including but not limited to the development of recreational opportunities, research on, and protection of riparian environments, and advocacy to protect clean water and recreational access. Contact <u>markrallio@gmail.com</u> for more information.
- Rolling As Available <u>MA Department of Fish and Game's In-Lieu Fee Program</u> This program funds 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 <u>aisling.oshea@mass.gov</u> for more info or to apply. Materials are also available on COMMBUYS under BD-23-1046-COM-COM4-77929.

### Job opportunities

- MVP Regional Coordinator position in the Berkshires and Hilltowns region,
- Save the Bay
  - o Director of operations at the Hamilton Family Aquarium
  - o Grant Specialist
- UMass Extension <u>Climate Program Assistant</u>
- RI Infrastructure Bank
  - o Administrative Assistant
  - o Business Development Analyst
  - o <u>Business Development Officer</u>
  - o Financial Accountant
  - o <u>Financial Analyst</u>
- Brown University <u>Assistant Director of Resiliency and Adaptation</u>
- Stantec <u>Senior Coastal Engineer / Project Manager</u>
- Center for Ecotechnology Energy Consultant Commercial Focus Field Based
- Massachusetts EEA
  - o DEP: Program Coordinator I
  - o DEP: Wastewater Section Chief
  - o DEP: Environmental Analyst III



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- DCR: Forest & Park Supervisor III Waquoit Bay NERR
- The Nature Conservancy Northern Appalachians Freshwater Conservation Manager
- City of Worcester –
- Upper Blackstone Clean Water <u>Wastewater Operator</u>
  - o Lakes and Ponds Program Coordinator
- City of Woonsocket <u>City Planner</u>
- State of RI <u>Chief Resilience Officer</u>
- Conservation Law Foundation
  - o Oceans Policy Manager
  - o Fall/Winter/Spring Intern MA
- Groundwork Lawrence
  - Development Manager
  - Urban Agriculture Manager
  - Pa'Lante Resident Task Force
  - School year '23 '24 Green Team Application
- Mass Audubon Field Teacher at Broad Meadow Brook
- Sudbury Valley Trustees <u>Director of Land Protection</u>
- RI Department of Environmental Management <u>Seasonal Water Monitoring Field Intern</u>