Natural Resources Committee
Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 2:00 pm
In the WRC Conference Room
Meeting Minutes

Attendance
Natural Resources Committee present: John Whitman, Bill Dunkel, Kevin Stine, Everett Wilson, Liisa Kissel, Andy Toepfer, Susan Hammond, David Deen, Bob Anderson
Guests present: Marie Caduto, Eliza Rudegeair
Staff present: Emily Davis, Marion Major

The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm with a quorum present and led by Kevin Stine.

Minutes
- The minutes of November 16, 2016 Natural Resources Committee were approved (motion by Kevin Stine).

Committee Chair position
- Kevin Stine offered to fill the position of Natural Resources Committee Chair. Kevin will be briefed on the role and responsibility of committee Chair. This position will have to be approved by the WRC executive board.

Discussion of the Clean Water Advisory Committee’s overarching goals and priorities for the basin, cont’d:
- A list of seven overarching goals were developed for Basin 11. From that list, Watershed Coordinator Marie Caduto developed a document that compiled all the implementation items (or “actions”), that were categorized under each of the goals.
- The committee then had to prioritize this list of actions, since the list was lengthy and needed another round of prioritization.
- In order to do this, the committee decided it was best for Marie C. to prioritize the actions list during the meeting, since she has an intimate knowledge of the needs of the Basin, the cost/benefit implications of each action, and the potential funding opportunities.
- The list of prioritized Basin 11 actions will be sent as a separate document to the committee members by Emily D.

Update on current projects:
- Marion M. updated the committee on the following current projects:
  1. The Gorman property: the current property owner has decided to sell their property, and so there is uncertainty in how the project will move forward. The WRC has decided it
most logical to wait until they can be in discussion with the new landowner unless the current landowner voices his approval for moving forward with the project.

2. Saxtons River Watershed Collaborative: The High Meadows Fund was able to support buffer planting projects, educational and community resources, and the placement of the educational center at the Retreat Farm. For 2017, more ERP funding should be sought to help continue this work. Specially, the group would like to acquire conservation easements, have more buffer planting events, and host Japanese knotweed pulling events and more invasive species awareness events.

3. Adams Brook: Design work is completed. Funding sources need to be located (in the winter round of ERP’s).

Other committee business:
- Kevin S. mentioned a new funding opportunity that supports the habitat of New England native (and threatened) turtle species. There may be opportunities for habitat restoration and landowner outreach. More information is needed about the details of this program.
- Marion M. and Emily D. discussed shifting staffing roles for the Natural Resources and Energy committees; Marion will take on the role of lead-planner for Energy, while Emily is the new lead for Natural Resources. For the NR committee, communications and new projects will be handled by Emily, though Marion will stay on as part of the planning team.

- **Next meeting**: Wednesday, January 11, 2016 (second Wed. of the month) or as determined.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

*Respectfully submitted, Emily Davis.*