

Ware River Watershed Advisory Committee

Contact: Jeff Schaaf at (413) 477-6646

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: May 19, 2011

Members: (members in BOLD were present)

Massachusetts Council of Sportsmen: Robert Carey, William Label

Alternate:

Worcester County League of Sportsmen: Dave Papale

Alternate: (Paul Thompson)

Trout Unlimited: **Jeffrey Schaaf, Co-chairman**

Alternate: (empty)

A Rod and Gun Club: Chris Duggan

Alternate: (Brian Waterman)

Barre Selectboard: **Martha Varnot**

Alternate: Edward Yaglou

Hubbardston Selectboard: Thomas Bratko

Alternate: (empty)

Oakham Selectmen: Thomas Hughes

Alternate: Henry Stone

Rutland Selectmen: **Charles R. Williams**

Alternate: (empty)

Barre Historical Society: Burt Frost

Alternate: Peg Frost

Hubbardston Historical Society: (empty)

Alternate: (empty)

Oakham Historical Society: **Wes Dwelly**

Alternate: **Bill Mucha**

Rutland Historical Society: **Helen Viner**

Alternate: Tim Nahrwold

Massachusetts Wildlife Federation: Bill Westaway, **Co-chairman**

Alternate: Thomas Berube

Massachusetts Audubon Society: Charles Delaney

Alternate: (empty)

Sierra Club: Matt Hopkinson

Alternate: (empty) Upper Ware River Watershed Association: **Donald Rich**

Alternate: Edward Yaglou

General Public: **Mark DuBois**

Alternate: (empty)

Visitors

DCR DWSP Representative(s):

Dave Small; Assistant Regional Director
Herm Eck; scribe

Agenda

STAC Update

Members Issues

STAC Update

Dave Small informed the WRWAC that the STAC was still working on its report, evaluating watershed forest management practices but hoped to have it ready for a joint WRWAC - QWAC public meeting soon.

Members Issues

There were a few questions and comments about recently proposed biomass regulations that have been in the news lately. These regulations will impact the development of biomass markets in Massachusetts.

A question about "what is new at DCR" prompted Dave Small to give a brief update of some of the DCR projects at the Ware River. The Brigham Road bridge upgrade has been pushed back a year to 2013. DCR will have boat ramp monitors again this summer to help educate visitors about aquatic invasive species. The wildlife habitat improvement project (WHIP) at Riis Hill is progressing nicely. DCR is working on strategies to deal with invasive plants. Exotic pest such as hemlock wooly adelgid and red pine scale were also discussed.

Bill Mucha proposed a snowmobile trail that would link the existing trail system to the Black farm in Oakham where the Coldbrook Snowmobile Club would like to store the groomer. Dave said the DCR would look into this proposal. Bill also mentioned the need for some road work on the Prison Camp Fire road and suggested the WRWAC schedule a fall clean-up on the watershed. The possibility of placing a porta-potty near the intersection of the Midstate trail and the Wachusett Greenway trail was discussed. Dick Williams mentioned that the Capa corp. may be interested in selling their old gravel pit that is completely surrounded by DCR land, to DCR. Mark Dubois mentioned that the Midstate Trail Committee had completed some trail improvement work, by installing five new bridges/wetland crossing structures, on a section of trail on the watershed.

Next Meeting

September 8, 2011 at the Franklin Wood Studio in Rutland behind the Police/Fire station.

Depending on the progress of the STAC report a meeting may be scheduled before September 8, 2011 (if needed).

Agenda

STAC Report

Approval of minutes

Member Issues