

**York River Study Committee
Meeting Minutes (Draft)
July 26, 2016, Grant House, York**

Voting Members Present: Chuck Ott, Karen Arsenault, Stefan Claesson, Cindy Donnell, Thom Kearns, Jack Murphy, Judy Spiller, Bryce Waldrop

Voting Members Absent: Jean Demetracopoulos, Joan LeBlanc, Steve Pelletier, Beth Walter

Other Committee Members Present: Jennifer Hunter, Jaime Fosburgh, and Paul Dest

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chuck Ott, Chair

1. Welcome and Introductions: Chuck welcomed the group
2. Review of Minutes: Karen made a motion to adopt the minutes of the June meeting, seconded by Cindy and passed unanimously.

Due to the fact that Paul Dest was running late and hadn't yet arrived to present the Treasurer's quarterly report we proceeded to Item 6 to await his arrival.

6. Review Outreach Plan and Schedule: Jenn presented draft outreach plan in preparation for the next round of programs. Format, dates and locations were discussed; as well as presenters, and volunteers needed for each.

Format: 2 versions:

- 15 minute version, 15 minute discussion for workshops with councils
- 30 minute version with additional time for Q & A

Dates and locations:

Eliot Historical Society	October 3
S. Berwick Town Council workshop	November? First or third Tuesday
Eliot – has same format re: workshops	TBD, November?
York – public meeting	TBD, October?
Kittery Town Council	October?

Other dates to remember:

August 24 – Meeting with York Code Enforcement

September 24 – Eliot Festival Day (Jenn, Stefan, Bryce, Jack (looking into registration))

October 14 – Marketfest (Karen, Bryce, Cindy) (Cindy to talk to Mary Ann Szeznowski re registration)

- Jenn will work on presentation for our review at the next Study Committee Meeting. Volunteer decisions can be made at that time.

- Jenn will reach out to Town Manager in Eliot regarding a workshop in November
- Discussion ensued about handouts and other materials: map, interactive display asking about interests (colored dots), photos, FAQs, one pager, banner, pop up tent?

5. Discussion with Tom Jackson. York River Oral History/Documentary Project: Prior to introducing Tom, Chuck proposed that we create a video to serve as a catalyst for saving/sharing the history of the watershed, starting with the indigenous people, to help build trust and common ground across ideological divides and to provide a context for what we are doing. He proposed raising \$10K to make it happen – which would include \$5K from our study funds and fundraising for the rest. He introduced Tom, who is a videographer, professor at UNH and environmentalist.

- Tom showed examples of his work, discussed the process and presented what might be some additional costs for producing a documentary on the York River.
- Feedback on concept was positive regarding doing an oral history project but there were concerns about a larger documentary, with its associated costs, even though Tom said he would be responsible for fundraising.
- Chuck proposed we put off a decision until our next meeting in recognition of the group’s need to think further about the project and proposal.

3. Treasurer’s Quarterly Report: Paul Dest

Paul provided two spreadsheets for review. He announced that because the Wells Reserve’s fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30, he was presenting an “End of Fiscal Year Report.”

FY16	Amount Budgeted:	\$57,338.
	Remaining Funds:	\$45,772.

FY17 Draft budget proposes an additional \$10K funds from NPS, some of which could be added to contracts but most would be added to the coordinator’s work. Paul remarked that funding is difficult to predict due to the rather fluid Federal fiscal year.

Judy made a motion to accept the proposed budget, seconded by Thom and passed unanimously.

4. Planning for Diadromous Fish Study: Speaking for the ORV subcommittee Jenn reported that the committee recommends moving forward with the study in 2017, with the Wells Reserve as contractor.

Discussion: Are there federal requirements that require bidding out contracts, policy implications about sole source contracts? Are there any concerns about Wells Reserve being the most appropriate organization to conduct the survey?

The group felt confident with the Wells Reserve and there were no Federal policy issues.

Jack made a motion that we move forward with asking the Wells Reserve to provide us with a proposal for the work, seconded by Cindy and unanimously approved.

5. Future Agenda Items

Oral History proposal

Fish Study

Jaime to do research on oral history projects in other places and pass information on to Chuck

Hearing no objections, Chuck adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The next meeting is Tuesday, August 23 at 5:30 p.m. at the Grant House.

Minutes submitted by Karen Arsenault