

**York River Study Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2019, Grant House, York**

Voting Members Present: Chuck Ott, Karen Arsenault, Stefan Claesson, Jean Demetracopoulos, Thom Kearns, Mike Masi

Voting Members Absent: Cindy Donnell, Joan LeBlanc, Jack Murphy, Judy Spiller

Committee Members Present: Paul Dest, Jennifer Hunter, Jim MacCartney, Emma Lord

Other Attendees: Amanda Bouchard, Kevin McKinney, Paul Radochia

5:30 p.m. meeting called to order by Chuck Ott

- 1. Minutes of the April meeting:** - on a motion made by Karen and seconded by Mike to approve the minutes, all in favor - motion passed unanimously.
- 2. Cooperative Agreement budget amendment: Jim M**
Jim announced that the DOI approved an additional \$20,000 towards the study committee's work. Paperwork being done now. Hopefully funds will be available by 7/1.
- 3. NPS Study Report Status: Jim M**
Waiting on final internal comments from internal reviewers. Don't expect much. Draft will move into the cue for the Regional Director and Director to sign off. It should be posted by July or sooner on PEPC for 90-day comment period.
- 4. Designation Bill Update: Chuck and Paul**
Chuck went to Washington to testify at a House subcommittee hearing on the bill that Congresswoman Pingree sponsored for W&S designation. Chuck also spoke with Dan Smith, acting director of NPS. Written comments go into the record.
Paul reported that Senator King is waiting until the NPS Study Report is completed and his staff has had a chance to review it as well as some other study on possible unintended consequences before moving forward to sponsor a companion bill in the Senate.
- 5. Draft Pesticide Ordinance by York Conservation Commission: Jenn**
Mike Morgillo, Chair of the York Conservation Commission, sent a draft of the ordinance to Jenn for distribution to our committee requesting comments from us, as well as other groups that we might recommend for comments as well.
Comments from the group included: How we manage pesticides is important. We need good science and good discussion. Application is an important issue. Self governance in this town is important and we hope this can be applied to the use of pesticides. Overall, education and increased awareness are key components. Study committee members might be able to help facilitate discussion on the issue between conservation commissions in the four watershed towns.

6. Other Discussion/Updates

Timelines: Question - what are we tasked to do right now? We are still a Study Committee and will continue to work towards study completion and formation of a future Stewardship Committee when needed.

Question: Paul Radochia asked if this committee would endorse/support changes in ordinances, and specifically would the committee be against additional docks if the upcoming harbor study indicated more docks could be added to the river. Chuck indicated no and that our role is advisory and that we speak out when we think we have advice on whether the river will be negatively impacted. We need to make decisions together.

Question: What's the status of monitoring for the river? Jenn said she was unaware of any upcoming water quality monitoring or eelgrass assessments but would check in with DEP to confirm.

Summer meetings: We will decide summer schedule at June meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Arsenault