

York River Study Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2020, Grant House, York

Voting Members Present: Jean Demetracopoulos, Cindy Donnell, Thom Kearns, Chuck Ott, Judy Spiller

Voting Members Absent: Karen Arsenault, Stefan Claesson, Joan LeBlanc, Mike Masi, Jack Murphy

Other Committee Members Present: Paul Dest, Jennifer Hunter, Jim MacCartney

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

1. **Minutes of the October and November meetings:** On a motion made by Cindy and seconded by Thom to approve the minutes, all voted in favor to accept the minutes as written.
2. **YRSC budget report:** Paul handed out the budget table for FY20 that includes \$20,000 from NPS for the cooperative agreement that ends June 30, 2020. He reminded everyone that this is the fifth and final year of the agreement. As of end of December \$10,237, or just over half the amount, has been spent. Available funding will likely cover the coordinator position through the end of May.
3. **NPS budget & PWSRs update:** Jim noted that the FY21 budget passed and includes the full funding request for PWSRs for the first time ever. It's about 50% more than previous years. If it stands, each PWSR will be awarded ~\$150,000. Funding for the rivers increased, but overall funding for NPS for PWSR administration did not. Jim mentioned that Emma Lord, former NPS fellow, was hired by NPS.
4. **NPS Study Report:** The report was released on PEPC on January 10! Comments can be submitted through April 10, a 91-day comment period. At the end, NPS will summarize comments. All are encouraged to submit comments. Kittery and South Berwick councils will be reiterating their support by submitting comments.
5. **Outreach activities:** The committee participated in the January 15 York Ready for 100% event on climate change, which was well-timed with the recent report release. Several committee members also attended the January 11 York Lobstermen's Association annual meeting. The committee agreed to participate in the next climate change forum at the end of February (date still TBD). Watershed area state legislators want to introduce a joint resolution in the legislature acknowledging the eligibility of the river for designation and have asked Jenn to provide information to assist them.
6. **YRSC community discussion forums:** The group discussed possible topics – river use and stewardship, river education for river users, aquaculture, private property, and buffers/shoreland zoning (Jeannie noted Wells Reserve previously hosted a similar workshop). The committee will aim to decide by March and if holding a forum, it will aim for May 2020.
7. **Other discussion items, updates, announcements:** Jim announced an upcoming training on river access for PWSRs at the end of March in Farmington, CT. He will email more information. Next scheduled YRSC meeting is Tuesday, February 25.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Hunter