

**York River Study Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 28, 2020, Online via Zoom**

*Voting Members Present:* Karen Arsenault, Jean Demetracopoulos, Thom Kearns, Joan LeBlanc, Mike Masi, Chuck Ott, Judy Spiller

*Voting Members Absent:* Stefan Claesson, Cindy Donnell, Jack Murphy

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

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

- 1. Welcome and introductions:** Chuck suggested raising hands to signify that you would like to speak.
- 2. January meeting minutes:** On a motion made by Karen and seconded by Judy to approve the minutes, all voted in favor to accept the minutes as written.
- 3. Financials/5-Year Cooperative Agreement:** Paul indicated the five-year agreement with NPS ended June 30, 2020. All the funds were spent, and Paul submitted final paperwork to NPS. He will have a complete financial report for the committee at its next meeting, including NPS and other funds for the study. Paul noted that the Reserve is providing additional funding for the coordinator position to get through August.
- 4. Legislative Update:** Paul provided an update on status and recent communications with Congresswoman Pingree, Senator King, and Senator Collins. Some members of the committee met on Zoom with Senator Collins staff on June 25. We await sponsorship of a Senate bill by Senator King and we made the request to Senator Collins as well. Senator King is awaiting clarification on an issue recently brought up by Maine Department of Transportation on Section 7 review. The committee has requested a meeting with DOT for more information, since this was the first time it heard of a concern from DOT who has been a committee member from the start of the study.
- 5. NPS Update:** Jim noted that the NPS Study Report is done but not yet available for release. The final internal review is being completed at the agency. Other updates – the NPS Partnership W&S Program is filling 2 positions this fall, so staffing level will be complete; NPS Partnership Program hired a fellow for the next year to work on a PWSR newsletter and “origin stories” for some of the long-standing Partnership rivers; and the House Appropriations Subcommittee put forward a budget increase for the Partnership Program for FFY21.
- 6. Committee Chair election:** The group thanked Chuck for all the time he put in and for his effective leadership as chair of the committee. Judy Spiller was nominated by Karen, seconded by Chuck, to serve as committee chair. All voted unanimously in support. The group discussed electing a new vice chair and decided to postpone that decision until the next meeting. Paul Dest will continue as vice chair until then.

- 7. Coordinator status:** Jenn noted that she has about 20 hours left for her position. Following the end of her paid time, she will volunteer to maintain the website and help coordinate meetings for the committee. She will work with Judy and Paul to transition those basic maintenance tasks if she is no longer able to perform those tasks. Jenn will coordinate actions with Judy and Paul, as other committee needs arise.
- 8. Next steps:** Jenn will arrange the Zoom meeting or call with DOT with committee members that are interested in participating. Paul will follow up with Congressional offices within the next several weeks.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Hunter