Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes Monday September 28, 2015 Salem Town Hall

* **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by A. Irving at 5:00pm. Members present included; A. Irving, M. Woody, P. Lord, B. Gillis, R. Smith, R. Dill, E. Thomas, R. Chyinski, J. Fosburgh and S. Merrow (phone call in). Also present P. Young, Program Director
* **Acceptance of July 27, 2015 Meeting Minutes:** R. Chyinski made a motion to approve meeting minutes of July 27, 2015, seconded by M. Woody. Approved Unanimously.
* **NPS Updates:** J. Fosburgh reported that the NPS newsletter for Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers had been drafted and will be sent out shortly. There are spaces in the newsletter for additional articles so ERWSCC can submit 1-2 short articles and pictures. J. Fosburgh also reported that there is still a possibility of a government shutdown which shouldn’t affect ERWSCC funding since paperwork is done but will affect any of the NPS staff working on W&S Rivers.
* **TNC Updates:** L. Robinson was not able to make the meeting. P. Young noted that Ed Bills Pond Dam removal should be underway shortly. There had been a few delays.
* **Subcommittee Updates:**
  + **Education and Outreach:** S. Merrow reported on progress on the Small Community Grant Program that the committee will be rolling out with the annual newsletter. Additional notices will be forwarded to local schools and libraries and other groups. A decision was made that organizations in Lyme, Salem, East Haddam and Colchester and East Lyme would be eligible to apply. Criteria is explained further in support document and the form will be a fillable form available on line for submittal.

The committee will also be supporting Enviroscape programming for the school year and there was discussion about continuing the summer family programs for 2016.

* + **Protection and Management:** R. Smith reported on the status of the multi-town trail. Paperwork should be finalized shortly for the East Lyme grant. The order for the trail sign markers has been received and Pat handed out samples. Bids went out for the repair/replacement of bridge decking and R. Smith will work with Pat to transfer funds from the NPS grant. The second NPS grant has not yet been decided upon. R. Chyinski asked about whether there could be some sort memo of agreement regarding use and responsibilities of each property along the trail. He felt that would be helpful as responsibility for management will change among individuals. Pat said she could work on this, but it would not be a formal agreement since there are groups beyond those represented by ERWSCC involved. It was agreed though that it would be a good tool to pass on to various managers and that the trail group would not be able to change uses or trails on individual parcels that would be up to individual parcel owners and managers. A future ribbon cutting ceremony was discussed. More will be presented on that as work progresses.

Pat updated the committee on the road culvert mapping. Field work is mostly completed. Protocol for collecting data has changed over the last three years and so student interns have been working on collecting data that was missing.

E. Thomas updated the committee on the status of the MS-4 General Permit. It has been revised and the proposed Tier 2 towns which included Salem, East Haddam and Lyme, have been eliminated.

Pat also discussed the proposed Comprehensive Management Plan proposed by Fish and Wildlife for the Conte Refuge (CT River Watershed in this case). She handled out some maps and information about the Whale Bone Cove section which includes some land area in the Eightmile River Watershed. Tony, Melvin, David, Rob and Pat will review and be submitting comments.

* + **Science and Monitoring:**  Pat reported on the seining with DEEP Fisheries for Bridle Shiners. Two populations were found, one in Harris Brook and another in Beaver Brook. She anticipates that they will do additional seining next summer.

She also reported that Tim Wildman from DEEP Fisheries (Diadromous Section) would like to put the video system back in for fall migration of eels.

Pat had also received data download from Neal Hagstrom for temperature loggers and she had one graphed out for Harris Brook. Each data set contains hundreds of entries and she will work on putting it into graph form once field work is finished for fall

* + **Project Review Subcommittee:** Removal ofEd Bills Dam will be starting shortly. Staging has begun on site. Amy Singler (with American Rivers) will be hosting a site visit when there been sufficient progress.

There was short discussion with J. Fosburgh and Jim Ventres and, A. Irving and R. Smith prior to the full committee meeting to talk about various permitting jurisdictions and the role of Wild & Scenic review based on a preliminary discussion with East Haddam Fish and Game Club for a proposed clubhouse and pond on their property. Jim V. will be checking to see if they are still pursuing this idea. A. Irving has brought up the idea preserving the land through the Forestry Legacy Program.

* **Project/Program Updates:** D. Bingham reported on the proposed Important Bird Area with Audubon. They are working on putting together a map showing the area to include. He and Pat will report to the committee as more information becomes available.
* **Old/New Business:** None
* **Adjournment:** Motion made by R. Chyinski, seconded by E. Thomas to adjourn meeting at 7:00pm.

Submitted by Pat Young