

**York River Study Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 24, 2019, Grant House, York**

*Voting Members Present:* Chuck Ott, Karen Arsenault, Jean Demetracopoulos, Cindy Donnell, Jack Murphy, Joan LeBlanc

*Voting Members Absent:* Stefan Claesson, Thom Kearns, Mike Masi, Judy Spiller

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

5:32 p.m. – Meeting called to order by Chuck Ott

1. **Minutes of the June meeting:** On a motion made by Karen and seconded by Cindy to approve the minutes, all voted in favor to accept the minutes as written.
2. **Budget updates and review:** Paul reviewed the 5-year budget report. It includes actuals for last fiscal year and proposed budget for the current fiscal year that began July 1. In last fiscal year, Wells Reserve redirected about \$2,200 from indirect to direct costs to cover expenses in May and June. For current fiscal year, the recent grant award enables about 40 hours of coordination time per month for 11 months, or through May 2020. All voted in favor to accept the FY20 budget as presented.
3. **Status of designation bill and NPS Study Report:** We still await the release of the NPS Study Report on the PEPC website. The report has been with the agency administration in Washington, DC since early July. At the time of its completion by regional staff, we anticipated its release in mid-July. On behalf of the committee, Paul has asked staff from Congresswoman Pingree's and Senator King's offices to follow up with NPS contacts on status of the report. He will ask them to query again. Jenn will email an announcement to our general email list once the report is posted and will contact the organizations and individuals whose letters of support are included in the NPS Study Report.

Given the continued opposition to designation by a handful of citizens, Chuck suggested it would be wise for the future stewardship committee to convene a forum on private property issues. Paul mentioned the Congressional Research Service report on Wild and Scenic Rivers from late August. It focused in part on Partnership rivers and reinforces our study findings of how partnership river designations are implemented, with no changes to local governance or property use.

4. **Outreach updates and plans:** Jenn summarized the Eliot Historical Society meeting she, Chuck and Jack presented at earlier this month and spoke of upcoming plans, including setting a meeting with Kittery Land Trust's new director and sending an email update when the NPS Study Report is posted.
5. **Other discussion items, updates, announcements:** Jack mentioned his interest and shared a report from work done by the NH Coastal Flood Risk Science and Technical Advisory Panel. *[Note – after the meeting, Joan shared a link to the report: <https://www.des.nh.gov/media/pr/2019/20190903-flood-risk.htm>]*

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Hunter