



## Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Flood Resiliency Management Plan Project Initiation Meeting

### March 26, 2015

- 10:00 10:05 Welcome and Opening Remarks (WPWA)
- 10:05 10:10 Introductions (AII)
- 10:10 10:15 Steering Committee Role and Expectations (F&O)
- 10:15 11:30 Project Background and Objectives (F&O) Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Overview (F&O) Work Plan Review – Project Scope & Schedule (F&O)

11:30 – 11:45 Previous and Ongoing Work in the Watershed - Available Study Reports and Data (F&O)

11:45 – 12:00 Next Steps and Discussion (F&O)

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ATTENDED	2	FIRST								
AT LENDED	ORGANIZATION	NAME	LAST NAME	TITLE	PHONE	ADDRESS	TOWN	CTATE	7ID	
G	RIDEM	Ernie	Panciera	Water Resources	401.222.4700	285 Promenade	TOWN	SIATE	ZIP	EMAIL
P.A.	OTDEED		- million	State Risk MAP &	x7603	Street	Providence	R	02906	Ernie.Panciera@DEM.RI.GOV
		Cdild	Feroni	Grants Coordinator	000.424.3706	79 Elm Street	Hartford	3	UPTOP-	
) <	USGS	Liz	Ahearn	Project Manager	860.291.6745	101 Pitkin Street	Fact Hartford	9 9	5127	<u>Carla.feroni@ct.gov</u>
R				New England			East Hartford	CI	06108	eaahearn@usgs.gov
OC.	USGS	Gardner	Bent	Specialist	508.490.5041	10 Rearfoot Bood				
No.	of Engineers	Wendy	Gendron	PLANNER/Proj. Mar	8603 978.318.8347	696 Virginia Road	Concerned and a second		70010	gbent(@usgs.gov
)<	CONSERVANCY	John	O'Brien		401-835-2011	159 Waterman		MIN	01/42	wendy.c.gendron@usace.army.mil
you	RI	Joe	Warner	Building/Zoning Official	2181	4540 South County	Providence	R	02906	jobrien@tnc.org
SIML	HOPKINTON DI	ī		Ciliciai	401.364.1 <del>210</del> 1770	1 Town House	Charlestown	R	02813	jwarner@charlestownri.org
4>	TOF NIN ION, RI	Jim	Lamphere	Town Planner	401.377.7770	Road	Hopkinton	몬	20833	nlanner@haakintani ana
FWI	HOPKINTON, RI	Ron	III	EMA Director	C- 401 413 8861 401.377.2100	1 Town House Boad you woodville			25820	<u>pidiliter@nopkintonri.org</u>
ARO	RICHMOND , RI	Henry	Oppenheimer	Town Council President	401.539.9000	5 Richmond _po		2	5-C807	<u>ema@hopkintonri.org</u>
1 Mill	STONINGTON, CT	George	Coppendicitie	rresident	*28 4025	Townhouse-Road		RI	02898	hroppenheimer@hotmail.com
50	STONINGTON, CT	Scot	Deledda	First Selectman	860.535.5050	152 Elm Street	Stonington	CT	06378	selectmen@stonington-ct.gov
7	STONINGTON , CT	Keith	Brynee	Town Engineer	860.535.5060	152 Elm Street	Stonington	СТ	06378	sdeledda@stonington-ct.gov
	WESTERLY, RI	Amy	Grvzbowski	FMA Coordinator	860.535.5060	152 Elm Street	Stonington	СТ	06378	kbrynes@stonington-ct.gov
5		No.		EIVIA Coordinator	401.348.6103	45 Broad Street	Westerly	RI	02891	agrzyhowskie westerkonz
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Project Steering Committee Kickoff Meeting Notes Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Flood Resiliency Management Plan March 26, 2015

#### Attendees:

- Denise Poyer, Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
- Chris Fox, Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
- Ernie Panciera, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
- Carla Feroni, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
- Liz Ahearn, United States Geological Survey
- Gardner Bent, United States Geological Survey
- Wendy Gendron, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- John O'Brien, The Nature Conservancy
- Joe Warner, The Town of Charlestown, RI
- Jim Lamphere, The Town of Hopkinton, RI
- Ron MacDonald, The Town of Hopkinton, RI
- Henry Oppenheimer, The Town of Richmond, RI
- George Crouse, The Town of Stonington, CT
- Scot Deledda, The Town of Stonington, CT
- Keith Brynes, The Town of Stonington, CT
- Judy Benson, The (New London) Day
- Erik Mas, Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.
- Maren Frisell, Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.
- Nils Wiberg (phone), Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.

Welcome and Opening Remarks (Denise Poyer)

- WPWA's mission: to preserve and protect the lands and waters of the Wood-Pawcatuck watershed for natural and human communities
- Introduced the importance of studying flood resiliency

Introductions (Erik Mas)

- Reviewed agenda and meeting purpose
- Introduced the project team and steering committee
  - Everyone in the room introduced themselves

Steering Committee Role and Expectations (Erik Mas)

- 2-Year Grant Agreement
- Several Steering Committee meetings to occur throughout the project timeframe
- Draft project deliverables to be distributed to the Steering Committee
- Looking for local knowledge and expertise from Steering Committee members
- Funding/ Grant
  - o Grant application to U.S. DOI National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)
  - o Grant program to help communities affected by Hurricane Sandy
  - o Enhance flood resiliency and benefit natural fish and wildlife systems, water quality, etc.
  - o Goal: develop an eco-system-based flood resiliency plan for the watershed



- One of very few grants awarded; two related projects awarded in RI:
  - Grant awarded to the Narragansett Tribe to enhance resiliency on tribal lands in the watershed
  - 2 Grants awarded to URI to look at flood resiliency and community planning in Newport, West Warwick, and North Kingstown
  - Our project will incorporate information from these two related, parallel projects to the extent possible

Project Background and Objectives (Erik Mas)

- Goal: consider the entire watershed to increase resiliency using natural ecosystem-based approaches by completing two tasks:
  - Assessing vulnerability to flooding and storm-related damage
  - Developing a watershed-based management plan to enhance flood resiliency and strengthen natural ecosystems
- Importance of working together to develop a comprehensive watershed-wide plan and to prioritize limited financial resources
- Types of flooding to be considered
  - Riverine flooding (primary focus)
  - Urban drainage flooding (secondary focus; this project is not a drainage study)
  - Coastal flooding (Pawcatuck estuary)
- Approach to look at four general areas:
  - o River corridors
  - o Vulnerable settlements
  - o Safer areas
  - o The whole watershed

Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Overview (Erik Mas)

- History of flooding in Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed
  - April 2010, landmark flood event in RI including the Wood-Pawcatuck watershed
  - Increased frequency of extreme storms in New England
- Watershed Overview
  - o Geography
  - o Geologic history
  - o Subwatersheds/tributaries
  - o Current and historic land use
  - Factors that control/cause flooding
    - Floodplain development
    - Channel encroachment
    - Impervious cover
    - Climate change (frequency of intense storms)
  - o Natural Resources
    - High-quality and diverse habitat
    - Generally very good surface water quality
      - Some impaired waterbodies (primarily due to elevated levels of fecal indicator bacteria)
    - Sole source aquifer for drinking water within watershed



• Wild and Scenic Designation under study by the National Park Service

Work Plan Review - Project Scope and Schedule (Erik Mas)

- Work Plan (Handout)
  - o Baseline watershed assessment
  - o Watershed technical evaluations
    - Stream geomorphic assessment
      - Specific stream reaches (38 miles) for detailed field assessment have not yet been identified; priority ranking is currently being completed and will be distributed to the steering committee for review and comment
      - Bridge, culvert and dam assessment
        - A database of known culverts, bridges, and dams in the watershed is being compiled from existing information sources
        - Dams data is coming from several sources so it is variable in what it contains
        - Data collected will be available to all towns in spreadsheet or other database format
      - Green infrastructure assessment
      - Natural resource inventory
  - o Land use regulatory review
  - Watershed plan development
- Project Schedule
  - Tentative steering committee meetings: March 2015, May 2015, November 2015, and April 2016
  - o Baseline and technical assessments: March December 2015
  - o Plan development: January October 2016
  - o Community meetings: Winter 2015/2016
  - o Municipal training: Fall 2016
  - o No issues for proposed project timing raised by steering committee members
- Direct emails to be distributed for important items; all information to be posted to the WPWA project website

Previous and Ongoing Work in the Watershed – Available Study Reports and Data (Erik Mas)

- Existing Data (Handout)
  - Asked steering committee to review list and list/provide other data sources that may be pertinent for the study to F&O
- Watershed plan questionnaire is being developed and will be distributed to the towns

Discussion and Questions Shown in the order of the conversation

#### Liz Ahern:

Q: Draft maps from USGS and FEMA Risk MAP project will be presented to the public in summer 2016; will they be incorporated into this project?



A: Due to the funding timeline, most of the technical evaluations and field work will be completed by the time the updated flood hazard maps are released, but F&O would like to incorporate any data and information from the Risk MAP project as soon as it is available. Liz indicated that they could prioritize the rivers within the watershed so that draft information is available as soon as possible.

#### Joe Warner:

The Town of Hopkinton is looking to finish its hazard mitigation plans for high hazard dams and would like to receive copies of technical data from the Wood-Pawcatuck Flood Resiliency Management Plan project for dams in the Town. The Town also has some data on existing dams that will be distributed to F&O. F&O and the Town of Hopkinton will be in communication regarding priority dams in the town.

#### Wendy Gendron and others on modeling:

Q: How will you measure cumulative impact of proposed projects in the watershed?

A: We plan to use existing HEC-RAS models developed by USGS (Risk MAP) and USACE to evaluate the effects of proposed projects and alternative management strategies.

Q: How will you factor in increases in precipitation due to observed and anticipated future climate change?

A: We plan to use the latest precipitation data (i.e., Cornell/Northeast Climate Data Center), which is reflected by the hydrology within the updated HEC-RAS models developed by USGS/FEMA, as well as the USGS StreamStats tool for RI. F&O will work with the steering committee members to select appropriate methods for accounting for future estimates of precipitation and flooding.

Q: HEC-RAS models do not allow for consideration of hydrograph routing and evaluation of downstream effects of proposed flood mitigation measures. How will you estimate the effectiveness of mitigation measures and downstream impacts? Also, the existing HEC-RAS models do not include all portions of the Wood River or the lower tidal portion of the Pawcatuck River; how are you going to evaluate these areas?

A: Evaluating the cumulative/downstream effects of various flood mitigation measures would require the use of a hydrologic model of the entire watershed, which is beyond the scope of this project. We will consider using the existing HSPF hydrologic model that was previously developed by USGS for the Wood-Pawcatuck watershed to evaluate the potential effects of various project recommendations, to the extent that this can be supported by the project scope and budget.

Q: How do you identify what flood recurrence frequency level you are going to plan for?

A: It will depend on the location and the potential benefit or feasibility of proposed improvement projects. Some project recommendations will be targeted at more frequent, smaller storms and flood events (i.e., green stormwater infrastructure), while other recommendations will target larger storms and flood events such as the 1 percent or 0.2 percent annual exceedance probability events.

#### Chris Fox:

Q: Will the plan consider location or feasibility of flood storage within the watershed?

A: Yes, it will be a consideration whether it is creating new flood storage or looking for opportunities to enhance or restore existing natural or man-made storage.

Q: Will the plan look at macro and micro levels of recommendations such as community-specific recommendations so that towns can budget and pursue individual projects?

A: Yes, the watershed management plan will identify site-specific recommendations and general recommendations that could be applied at a watershed-wide or town-wide level.



Q: Will the end product will be a document that the towns can use to pursue grant funding for individual projects?

A: Yes, we plan to identify individual projects located throughout the watershed, with conceptual level of design and planning, that the towns can use as the basis for pursuing future grant funding.

#### Ernie Panceira:

RIDEM is looking to create watershed plans for the major planning basins across the state to comply with EPA requirements (319 Nonpoint Source Program and addressing water quality impairments through implementation of watershed based plans), and is in support of this project. RIDEM's watershed plans will focus on aquatic habitat and water quality. RIDEM will work with F&O to develop water quality-related materials for this watershed plan so that it meets EPA requirements for watershed based plans. Once an approved watershed based plan is in place, the watershed communities will be well-positioned to seek 319 grant funding for implementation projects within the watershed.

#### Liz Ahearn:

The Risk MAP project will include an economic assessment of potential flood damages, which can be used by towns to apply for 319 and other funding.

#### Joe Warner:

There are several flood prone areas in Charlestown that are identified in the Community Rating System (CRS), which provides information/mapping on flood losses. Flood insurance claims may or may not be publically available, but Town representatives should have them. The Town of Charlestown has a GIS layer with "problem areas" but does not show individual properties due to the Right to Privacy Act. If a site has three insurance claims it qualifies for repetitive loss. In Charlestown these areas are generally coastal but some are due to drainage issues.

#### Carla Feroni:

Q: Are you going to look at the 0.2 percent exceedance probability flood (i.e., 500-year flood recurrence interval)?

A: Yes, we will consider larger flood events for individual sites and potential project recommendations based on the level of development downstream and other factors to best meet the project goals.

#### Jim Lamphere:

Q: Will you identify dams that are worth repurposing, fortifying, rebuilding for energy production, etc.? A: The watershed is no longer being considered for any significant hydropower due to the low head levels on existing dams and the lack of any significant drops and flows in the Wood-Pawcatuck. None of the watershed dams were built for flood storage. Repurposing of existing dams is being considered. This would consist of modifying or re-building the dams to the extent that there would be no pool under normal conditions, but the dam would impound water under flood conditions. Flood control gates could be used in the event of a flood, which could mean rebuilding a dam. The watershed is also protected under the current Wild and Scenic designation. Construction of new dams is inconsistent with the important Wild and Scenic designation criteria of free-flowing rivers.



#### Chris Fox:

Q: Can F&O provide a few sentences to the towns to help them relay the purpose of the project throughout their communities when discussing the plan with elected officials, board members, and the public? What's in it for us (the communities)?

A: Yes, we will develop something. The basic goal of the project is to develop a watershed wide longterm protection plan that addresses chronic and routine flooding using natural techniques to protect both human interests and the natural environment.

To answer the question, "What's in it for us?" Chris Fox suggested the following language: This is a multi-stakeholder collaborative effort of sharing of information in efforts to develop an overall guiding plan that will support and help elevate the priority of flood resiliency projects for funding. This can only be achieved by working as a whole watershed group.

#### Joe Warner:

Q: Will regulations from this project be adopted at the state level?

A: This project may inform flood resiliency planning and policy at the state level, and will serve as an example of watershed-based flood resiliency strategies that could be implemented in both states (RI and CT). The plan will be publically available.

#### Chris Fox:

Q: Will the plan have lots of appendices and data that the towns can use?

A: Yes. It will include thorough documentation of the technical assessments and supporting information in the document appendices. We also want to develop a user-friendly document that isn't intimidating to elected officials and the general public. The main body of the watershed plan will use plain language and a graphical format. The plan will contain detailed information for those who want to access it, but it will also be approachable for individuals just looking for the main purpose and recommendations. Although hard copies will be provided, it will be disseminated primarily in electronic format and via the web.

#### Henry Oppenheimer:

Q: Will you meet with town planners?

A: Town planners and other municipal staff will be invited to the community workshops that are planned for the project. We also want the steering committee members to reach out to other individuals in their towns or organization to receive their input and hopefully participate in the community workshop meetings. The goal is for the steering committee members to act as a liaison for their respective communities and organizations.





# Steering Committee Meeting November 19, 2015

1.	Culvert and Bridge Assessment a. Field Work b. Preliminary Findings	10:00 am
2.	Geomorphic Assessment a. Field Work b. Preliminary Findings	10:30 am
3.	Dam Assessment a. Field Work b. Preliminary Findings	11:00 am
4.	<ul> <li>Status Update of Other Watershed Assessments</li> <li>a. Baseline Assessment</li> <li>b. Wetlands/Natural Resources</li> <li>c. Green Infrastructure</li> <li>d. Land Use Regulatory Review</li> </ul>	11:30 am
5.	<ul> <li>Status Update on Related Ongoing Initiatives (group discussion)</li> <li>a. USGS/FEMA Risk MAP</li> <li>b. Army Corps Flood Mitigation in Lower Pawe</li> <li>c. RIDEM Statewide Nine Elements Basin Plan</li> </ul>	
6.	Adjourn	12:00 pm

Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Flood Resiliency Management Plan Project Steering Committee Meeting November 19, 2015

**Discussion Notes** 

- Henry: are we going to price out recommended repairs?
  - Eric: We could provide some order of magnitude costs for some priority culverts
- Data preferred by Town
- Jim Lamphere: Is there something we can do for issues on private properties?
  - Marilyn Shellman: NRCS is working on updating legislation to be able to address problems on private property, and there is some funding set aside, specifically for private properties. NRCS will be distributing fliers/ information on technical and financial assistance
- Chris Fox: Will there be blank data forms for the sake of updating this plan with new information as repairs occur
  - Eric: We can look to provide some checklists
  - The spreadsheets will need to be updated as changes occur, need to provide details for how updates can be made to the existing databases
- Denise to Nick: Should we be doing anything about wood recruitment on the rivers? (They do some maintenance cutting)
  - Nick: A management technique would be adding wood to the rivers. There is some wood today, but not as much as there would be if it weren't altered. Wood provides many benefits to a stream, increases flow complexity, helps store sediment, helps sort sediment, etc.
- Liz Ahearn: Where were the encroachments that you saw? Did you compare them to FEMA boundaries?
  - Nick: Have not looked at FEMA boundaries yet, they are looking more at a habitat level. Erosion hazards are calculated very differently (only a modeled) flood hazard erosion looks at centerlines, buffers, etc. We do look at flood plains, boundary walls, soil types, lateral limits of where the river could migrate, used LIDAR data to map limit of the river valley where assessments were done
- Chris Fox: USGS Stream gages, is there a newer method of stream measurement that isn't at a barrier. Is modifying a USGS gage a good option? Or should removal and replacement be considered?
  - Nick: the goal would be to place them where there aren't barriers. Sean and Nils working on this---specific USGS gage
- Marilyn: Was doing the assessments in the dry a problem?
  - Nick: No we were looking at the bankfull widths, so current water elevations don't have an effect on the data
- Marilyn: Make sure to look at the potential future hazard ranking of dams (not just the current hazard ranking)

Status of Related Initiatives

- USGS/FEMA Risk MAP: (Liz Ahearn) ½ way through 4 year study, model set up, meet with community officials with maps in the spring, 90-day appeal period, compliance period 1-2 years before the town adapts
- Army Corps Flood Mitigation in Lower Pawcatuck: Wendy Gendron not in attendance

- RIDEM Statewide Nine Elements Basin Planning: (Ernie Panciera) Should meet with project team and Ernie in January to make sure projects align; coordinate efforts to make sure the plan is sufficient for water quality efforts
- Local Hazard Mitigation Planning: RIEMA would like a summary on how this plan can be incorporated into hazard mitigation plans (Jess Stimson)
- CTDEEP: Nobody in attendance
- Richmond—RIEMA 45 day return period on flood hazard mitigation plan
- Chris Fox: Wants to come to internal workshop for dams





## Steering Committee Meeting April 14, 2016

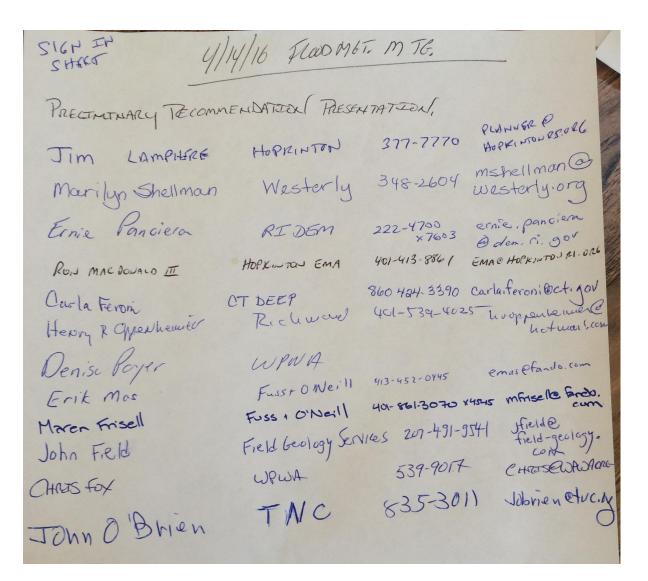
1.	<ul><li>Dams, Bridges and Culverts Assessment</li><li>Assessment process and major findings</li><li>Restoration recommendations</li></ul>	10:00 am
2.	<ul> <li>Geomorphic Assessment</li> <li>Geomorphic assessment process and major findings</li> <li>River corridor protection area maps - process and uses</li> <li>River corridor planning - process and limitations</li> <li>Restoration recommendations</li> </ul>	10:45 am
3.	<ul> <li>Status Update on Other Project Tasks</li> <li>Baseline Assessment</li> <li>Wetlands/Natural Resources</li> <li>Green Infrastructure</li> <li>Land Use Regulatory Review</li> <li>Community Meetings</li> </ul>	11:30 am
4.	<ul> <li>Status Update on Related Ongoing Initiatives</li> <li>USGS/FEMA Risk MAP</li> <li>Army Corps Flood Mitigation in Lower Pawcatuck</li> <li>Westerly/Save the Bay TMDL Implementation Project</li> </ul>	11:50 am
5.	Adjourn	12:00 pm





Steering Committee Meeting April 14, 2016

Meeting Attendees







## Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Flood Resiliency Management Plan Project Steering Committee Meeting May 21, 2015

- 10:00 10:05 Welcome and Opening Remarks (WPWA)
- 10:05 10:15 Status Update on Work Completed to Date (F&O)
  - Baseline Assessment
  - QAPP
  - Field Work Planning

## 10:15 – 11:45 Field Assessment Methods and Geographic Priorities (F&O)

- Fluvial Geomorphic and Flood Hazard Assessment
- Bridge, Culvert, and Dam Assessment
- Natural Resource Assessment
- Green Infrastructure Assessment

11:45 – 12:00 Schedule (F&O)

Wood-Pawcatuck Flood Resiliency Management Plan Stering Committee Meeting May 21, 2015 Name Affiliation Email Address Enik Mas Fiss + O'Neill en a fonds. com Carla Feroni CTDEEP Carla, feroni@ct.gov Zack Valenio Coastal Fellows Zackvaleria@hotmail.co John O'Bnien RD TNC JobrienOtic. Org Joseph Warner Town OF Charlestown Jwarner@charlestoamri.on Ernie Panciera RIDEM Water Resources ernie panciera @ den.si, gov Henry Opperheumen Richumal hroppentermenter hot unail.com Nate Lukas nlukas@my.uri.edu Coastal Fellows Intern Jim Lomphage TUWN PLANNER HUPKINSON RAPHER PHOREMOTINES TOWN PLANNER WESTERLY MShellman@ westerly , 000 mshellman@ westerly org MARILYO SHELLMAN Moren Frisell mfriselle fancio.com Fuss & O'Naill





### Dams Recommendation Workshop December 22, 2015 9:30 AM

- 1. Dam Inspection Overview
  - a. List of Dams Inspected/Not Inspected
  - b. Collection of Data
    - i. Inspection Forms
    - ii. DEM/DEEP File Reviews
- 2. Project Goals and Deliverables for Dam Scope Items
  - a. Recommendation Alternatives
  - b. Goals for Dam Deliverable
- 3. Matrix Overview
  - a. Review Matrix Set Up
  - b. Discuss Procedure for Generating Final Recommendations
- 4. Review Individual Dams
  - a. The goal will be to review as many dams as feasible during the workshop. Dams to be reviewed will be prioritized by the dams that individuals in the room are most familiar with to capitalize on local knowledge.
  - b. Discuss recommendations for dams reviewed during workshop
  - c. Review of dams will include review of:
    - i. F&O Inspection Forms
    - ii. Photos
    - iii. RIDEM/CTDEEP File Review Data
    - iv. Input from individuals at the workshop
- 5. 1/2 Hour Break for Lunch (Lunch Provided) 12:00 pm
- 6. Adjourn

4:00 pm



WOOD-PAWCATUCK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



Priority Dams	Watershed
Alton Pond Dam	Lower Wood River
Blue Pond Dam	
Hope Valley Mill Pond Dam	
Locustville Pond Dam	
Woodville Pond Dam	
Arcadia Mill Lower Dam	Upper Wood River
Barberville Pond Dam	
Browning Mill Pond Dam	
Wyoming Pond Lower Dam	
Wyoming Upper Dam	
Liepold Pond Dam	Lower Pawcatuck River
Stillmanville Dam	
Burdickville Dam	Middle Pawcatuck River
Potter Hill Dam	
Glen Rock Reservoir Dam	Queen Usquepaug River
Decappett Pond Dam	Beaver River
Ashaway Line Pond Dam & Ashaway	Ashaway River
Mill Pond Dam	

Lower Priority Dams	Watershed
Green Falls Reservoir Dam	Ashaway River
Green River Pond Dam	
Tug Hollow Pond Dam	Beaver River
Grassy Pond Dam	Lower Wood River
Moscow Pond Dam	
Wincheck Pond Dam	
Edward's Pond Dam	Queen Usquepaug River
Glen Rock Lower Pond Dam	
Glen Rock Middle Pond Dam	
Great Swamp Goose Marsh Dam	Upper Pawcatuck River
Tanner Pond Dam	
White's Pond Dam	
Wood River Junction Dam	
Boone Lake Dam	Upper Wood River
Breakheart Pond Dam	
Porter Pond Dam	