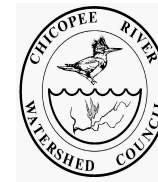


## NEWS FLASH



### *The Three Rivers Initiative is underway!*

The March 19 kick-off meeting sparked some good discussion and ideas. This modest start will be followed up with another meeting in late April to formulate actions and continue to develop the initiative.

#### **Meeting highlights:**

15 watershed residents attended, representing all (4) major rivers.

#### **Topics Discussed:**

Creating segment stewards to survey and monitor river segments, a team approach  
Building the council and how to organize key roles  
Watershed documentary; a virtual trip through the watershed, an educational tool  
ChicRWC's mission  
Preparing watershed flyer/brochure to use at community events  
Issues of concern  
Lakes are a significant influence in the Quaboag

#### **Ideas:**

Prepare a traveling show kit to build awareness, use at community events, attend events  
Sponsor stream naming contests, check old maps for stream names  
Promote better inter-department communications on river issues in towns and state agencies  
Sponsor a conservation commission summit of watershed towns to discuss river issues  
Prepare watershed awareness DVD for community access channels in watershed towns  
Council should act as coordinator of actions to support groups throughout the watershed  
Conduct historical review of towns relating to water's importance in area's history  
Seek possible graduate study work projects to research important watershed issues/habitat  
Establish contacts with key biological specialists and resources

#### **Watershed Wishes Survey Summary:** (so far)

**Top issues:** water quality, habitat protection, access, pollution concerns

**Other issues:** wetlands, water quantity, invasives, regional approaches to protection

**Top actions:** events, education, news coverage, social outreach, info literature

**Other actions:** stewardship activities, identify problems, historical research

*Willing to donate:* large majority yes, all – thanks

***Role of watershed council:***

Stewardship activities, outreach/connect people to watershed, education, coordination  
Mobilize manpower, promote protection, collect watershed information

*Willing to volunteer:* large majority yes, few maybe

***Wishes:***

More access, appreciation for the waters, awareness, historic preservation,  
Habitat protection, fish restoration  
Action!

**Notes: River Fest**

## **WHAT'S NEXT??**

**Another meeting in late April to focus on developing:**

Documentary project  
Segment teams/stewards (organize initial surveys)  
Educational program planning  
Preliminary event ideas/plans  
Upcoming community events to attend  
Organizational issues

**Tentative next meeting: Thursday April 23 @ 6:30 PM, Palmer Town Hall**

Details to follow.

Respectfully submitted:

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