



Massachusetts Watershed Coalition

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June 19, 2018

Jamie Fosburgh, NPS, Manager, Northeast Region Rivers Program
Lucy Wallace, Chair, NRWSR Study Committee
Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Committee
c/o Nashua River Watershed Association
592 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

Dear Mr. Fosburgh and Ms. Wallace:

As Executive Director of the Massachusetts Watershed Coalition I know the threats to the health of our rivers and the gaps in their protection. The “Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Stewardship Plan” does an exemplary job of establishing appropriate goals and laying out actions that can be undertaken voluntarily to sustain unique river-related resources. There are many ways the Massachusetts Watershed Coalition can partner to help achieve the goals, particularly with regard to stormwater.

Since 2008, I have been a volunteer with the Nashua River Watershed Association’s Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program, which has been collecting data for over 20 years. I take this opportunity to underscore the need for ongoing monitoring of the rivers, and I am pleased to see the importance of maintaining good water quality is highlighted in the “Stewardship Plan.”

I am also glad to see the “Marion Stoddart Story” is prominently presented in the “Stewardship Plan” as a cultural resource. I served as the Executive Director of the Nashua River Watershed Association from 1981 to 1994. The Clean Up of the Nashua River is a national model and it has been my privilege to know Marion very well. Her role in the Clean Up is truly inspirational to both institutions and individuals alike. The “Marion Stoddart Story” is a story that needs to be told and retold as we go forward.

2018 is Marion’s 90th birthday, and it’s the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Program. This year offers an exceptional opportunity for Congress to designate the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers as Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers!

Sincerely,

Ed Himlan

Ed Himlan
Executive Director