



## Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

203 Arcadia Road, Hope Valley, RI 02832; 401-539-9017; [info@wpwa.org](mailto:info@wpwa.org); [www.wpwa.org](http://www.wpwa.org)

August 7, 2009

Dear Stakeholder,

The Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association, in partnership with the Rhode Island Resource Conservation and Development Council, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U. S. Geological Survey, and the Rhode Island Water Resources Board, are delighted to announce the completion of the **Pawcatuck Watershed Water Use Optimization Study (the Study)**. The Study is the culmination of over a decade of stakeholder involvement and advocacy along with years of intensive data gathering and analysis. Please join us for a public workshop to examine the Study and explore how the Pawcatuck region can sustainably manage our water resources for the future.

A key component of the Study was the development of a “Conjunctive Use Optimization Model”. The model is a tool that can be used to determine how combined water uses are impacting the watershed’s water supply and optimize those uses to hopefully avoid water quantity issues in the future.

Because water use is complicated, we have organized a series of public workshops to examine the model and its implications for each of the major water users in the region. You are welcome to attend any of these sessions. We anticipate that the dialog will be interesting and informative as we examine how the study can be used to inform future water use decisions. Each workshop will include presentations about the watershed, why the study was needed, and what the model is and how it can be used to benefit stakeholder decisions. The presentations will be followed by a panel discussion with water resource experts, major water users and others discussing the study, potential issues and possible uses for the model. The audience will have an opportunity to pose questions about the Study to experts and panelist. Each workshop will have a slightly different focus, as noted in the schedule on the [reverse of this letter](#).

We are extremely fortunate in that we are one of the only watersheds in the nation to have this level of modeling available to us. It is important now that we get stakeholder input on how best to maximize the use and effectiveness of this valuable tool. We hope you will be able to make one of the dates listed below.

You can also visit the project website at [ww.edc.uri.edu/personal/pete/wpwa\\_pawcop.htm](http://ww.edc.uri.edu/personal/pete/wpwa_pawcop.htm) for more information and updates. You may also contact Denise Poyer at 401-539-9017 or [denisep@wpwa.org](mailto:denisep@wpwa.org) if you have any questions.

We look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

Chris Fox, WPWA Executive Director

***Pawcatuck Optimization Study  
Workshop Schedule:***

**Workshop 1:** Thursday, August 20th from 6 - 8 PM;

Focus: Municipal

Location: Westerly Land Trust Office, 10 High Street, Westerly, RI 02891

([www.westerlylandtrust.org](http://www.westerlylandtrust.org))

**Workshop 2:** Monday, August 24th from 6 - 8 PM;

Focus: General Public

Location: USFWS Kettle Pond Visitors Center, 50 Bend Street, Charlestown, RI

02813 ([www.doi.gov](http://www.doi.gov))

**Workshop 3:** Thursday, August 27th from 6-8 PM;

Focus: Farmers/Golf Courses

Location: The Stuckey Room, Education Center, W. Alton Jones Campus,

401 Victory Highway; West Greenwich, RI 02817-2158

(<http://www.uri.edu/ajc/eec/direction.html>)

**Workshop 4:** Monday, September 14th, from 8:30 AM - 12PM;

Focus: Technical/Scientific

Location: URI Coastal Institute, Bay Campus, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI

02879 (<http://www.uri.edu/home/visitors/Map/baycampus.pdf>)

**Capstone Event:** Saturday, September 19th from 3-7 PM;

Focus: General Public

Location: Schartner Farms, 1 Arnold Place, Exeter, RI 02822 (on Rt. 2)