

June 30, 2014

Ms. Veronica Berounsky
Rhode Island Rivers Council Chair
One Capitol Hill, Third Floor
Providence, RI 02908

Dear Ms. Berounsky,

This letter is to serve as The Blackstone River Watershed Council's (BRWC) final report for the FY2014-15 RI Rivers Council Grants.

The BRWC received a grant in the amount of \$1,900. \$1,320 of that amount was designated for the "Fish in the Classroom" project. This is the second year the BRWC has provided funds, through the courtesy of the RIRC, for local junior and senior high schools, to support purchases of supplies that are used to help raise trout and or salmon. \$330 was distributed to each of the four participating schools. \$80 was used for administrative expenses.

The BRWC has, for many years supported the DEM's Aquatic Resource Education Program. Our support has been in the form of introducing the program to the various local schools, and then personally delivering the fish eggs to the participating schools. One of our board members has personally delivered the eggs for many years. It has only been the past two years that the BRWC's support has been extended to the schools financially.

This was the sixth year for Woonsocket High School. Their 11th and 12th graders successfully raised and released 100 salmon into the Ashaway River in South Kingstown. They did not raise or release any trout this year. Woonsocket H.S. is an underfunded school. The funds that the BRWC provided for this program were very gratefully received, and put to good use.

Central Falls High School was introduced to the program for the first time this year. Two of their science teachers participated in the raising of Atlantic salmon. They successfully raised and released 40 salmon into the Ashaway River in South Kingstown. I personally visited the classroom where the tank was and was delighted to see the excitement and wonder in the eyes of these students, many of whom were seeing live fish for the first time in their lives!

The Joseph L. McCourt Middle School has been participating in the program for 6 years. This year, like last year, they raised Brown trout. They successful raised and released approximately 100 trout in the Blackstone River.

North Cumberland Middle School has been participating in the program for six years. This year they raised Brown trout. They raised and released approximately 85 trout into the Blackstone River.

There was some difficulty throughout this grant year in making sure the teachers complied in a timely manner with submitting receipts and questionnaires. Overall though, the schools were

very appreciative and grateful for the extra funding. The students learned things such as: team work, organizational and planning skills, animal husbandry, relationships between temperature and growth development, habitat analysis and much more.

Paper copies of the receipts for each of the four schools will be mailed separately.

The second component of this grant was \$500 which was used for marketing and outreach for the BRWC. With this \$500 we were able to do a special membership mailing to 200 people on our contact list. This special mailing directly resulted in a 33% percent increase in the number of our members and a significant dollar amount increase.

We also had our very first rack card designed and printed. This rack card is designed to be inserted in special display units that are placed in key locations throughout the Blackstone River Valley. It will add another way for us to visually promote our organization. The card contains our logo, website, mailing address, location, Facebook page name, mission statement and many of the projects and programs we do. The card also indicates that we are an authorized watershed council of the Rhode Island Rivers Council. This card is ideally sized for handout and mailings. We had 500 printed.

The third item purchased with these funds was a retractable banner. After seeing the nice banner that the Narrow River Preservation Association had, the BRWC decided to get one. Designs and layouts were discussed and agreed upon. There were a few issues in the design process that caused some delays in obtaining and ordering a finalized product. They were resolved, and the banner was ordered. As this report is being written, we are awaiting delivery.

A digital copy of the banner and rack card are attached. We will distribute copies of the rack card at the August meeting and bring in the display banner.

The Blackstone River Watershed Council was very grateful for the grant funding this year. We feel we accomplished a lot with the funds. We sincerely thank the RI Rivers Council for their support.

Respectfully submitted:

Judy Hadley

Grant Administrator/BRWC

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