



The Rhode Island Rivers Council

c/o RI Water Resources Board
235 Promenade Street, Suite 394
Providence, RI 02908
401-222-1450

May 20, 2010

Mr. Keith Stokes, Executive Director
RI Economic Development Corporation
315 Iron Horse Way
Providence, RI 02908

Re: State Map Revision Recommendations

Dear Mr. Stokes:

Under RIGL 46-28-7-6, the RI Rivers Council is tasked “to make findings and recommendations to state agencies ... to promote river uses consistent with the state’s river policy and river classification plan” which seeks to foster recreational use of the state’s rivers. The *RI Rivers Policy and Classification Plan* is State Guide Plan Element 162.

At our May 12, 2010, meeting, the RI Rivers Council voted unanimously to recommend that the RIEDC Tourism Division in cooperation with RI Department of Transportation name the Chipuxet River and the Usquepaug River on the RI State Map at the time of revision and printing of the next edition of the map. These two rivers run southerly to the Great Swamp Management Area west of the University of Rhode Island. The Council also voted unanimously to recommend that EDC and DOT examine the entire map and make improvements to the identification of the state’s rivers to the maximum extent practical per your good judgment.

Please note both the Chipuxet River and the Usquepaug River are included in the stream gauging network operated by the US Geological Survey in conjunction with several state agencies. The Rivers Council believes that enhancing the identification of the state’s rivers and significant streams will foster environmental education and improved stewardship in addition to promoting greater overall uses such as fishing, canoeing and kayaking. Beyond identifying unnamed rivers, cartographical consultants might also seek to improve labeling coherence. For example, the words “Pawcatuck” and “River” appear quite distant from each other on the current map. Perhaps “Pawcatuck River” should appear twice on the map.

Please feel free to contact the RI Rivers Council in regard to these recommendations or other possibilities regarding care and promotion of the state’s rivers.

Sincerely yours,

Guy N. Lefebvre, Chair

cc: Mr. Michael Lewis, Director, RI Department of Transportation
Mr. Christopher Fox, Executive Director, Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association



The Rhode Island Rivers Council is an associated function of the RI Water Resources Board
Guy Lefebvre, Chair; Ted Callender, Ph.D., Vice Chair; Claudia Staniszewski, Secretary/Treasurer;
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