

PIE-Rivers Partnership

2017 Annual Meeting

Tuesday, December 5, 2017
Newbury Town Library, 0 Lunt St, Byfield

Meeting Agenda

8:15 Coffee

8:45 Welcome & Partnership Business Meeting
2017 Overview and Partner Updates and 2018 Planning
George Comiskey, Parker River Clean Water Association
Peter Phippen, MassBays National Estuary Program

9:15 Beyond the Drought: The 2016 Drought in Context
Vandana Rao, Ph.D.
Director of Water Policy
MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

9:45 Land Conservation 2017 in Review: Highlights in the Watersheds and Looking Ahead
Chris LaPointe
Director of Land Conservation
Essex County Greenbelt

10:15 Snack Break

10:40 Restoring and Monitoring Migratory Fish Populations in the PIE Watersheds
Ben Gahagan
Diadromous Fish Biologist
MA Division of Marine Fisheries

11:10 Evaluating Aquatic Barriers to Prioritize Restoration
Brian Kelder
Restoration Program Manager
Ipswich River Watershed Association

11:40 Wrap-up and Adjourn
George Comiskey and Peter Phippen

Before you leave! We need your input.

To help the Steering Committee set the PIE-Rivers goals over the next year we would like everyone to answer the following questions. Please write your answers on the provided note card and leave them with us before you leave the meeting. No names needed.

1. Are the 2017 priority areas still relevant? What is missing for 2018?
2. Are there individuals, entities or groups that we should look to involve in the Partnership?
3. What are the needs out there? (What can partnership do for you? For region?)

About the Speakers



Vandana Rao is the Director of Water Policy at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA). She is responsible for developing policy and providing direction to the Secretary of EEA on water resource issues across the state. These include issues such as water quantity and quality, drought, water conservation, wastewater, habitat, watershed management, climate change impacts from and to water resources, and stormwater. Over the years, she has worked on managing the State's drought response in 2015-2017; leading the development and update of the

Massachusetts Water Conservation Standards and the Interbasin Transfer Act regulations; the Sustainable Water Management Initiative; developing and implementing the Massachusetts Water Policy; managing the development of guidance on nutrient reduction strategies; developing the State's first draft desalination policy, and; streamlining the dam removal permitting process, among others. Vandana also chairs the state Drought Management Task Force, and is the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Water Resources Commission where she works with the Commission on interbasin transfer issues, water policy and water resource management. Vandana received her Ph.D. in Environmental Policy and a Certificate in Dispute Resolution from the University of Massachusetts at Boston, her Masters in Environmental Science from the University of Maryland, and her Bachelors in Life Sciences from the University of Bombay, India.



Christopher B. LaPointe, Director of Land Conservation at Greenbelt, works with landowners, communities, land trusts, and public agencies across Essex County, Massachusetts, on complex land protection projects. Previously, Chris worked for twelve years with The Trust for Public Land, where he helped conserve more than 2,750 acres of land worth more than \$75 Million. Chris has a BA in Environmental Policy from Colby College and an MS in Natural Resource Planning from the University of Vermont. Chris is also President of the Hamilton-Wenham Open Land Trust.



Ben Gahagan is a diadromous fish biologist with The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries. His primary focus is on monitoring and restoring diadromous fish populations in Massachusetts. He also represents the Division on the anadromous fish Technical Committees for the Merrimack and Connecticut rivers, as well as several NOAA and ASMFC working groups. His research interests are broad but largely focus on the mechanisms and ecology of fish migrations and how this information can be applied to improve conservation and management.



Brian Kelder is the Restoration Program Manager at the Ipswich River Watershed Association. He is an aquatic ecologist with experience in fisheries research, ecosystem monitoring and habitat restoration. His current work is focused on restoring ecosystem integrity, primarily by removing aquatic barriers. He manages and supports dam removals, culvert upgrades, other fish passage improvements and efforts to prioritize future projects throughout the region. He has coordinated the PIE-Rivers Partnership since 2011. Brian has a BS in Animal Science from Cornell University and a MS in Aquatic Ecology from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.