

TOWN OF ELIOT

INCORPORATED 1810

1333 STATE ROAD
ELIOT, MAINE 03903
207-439-1813

December 20, 2018

Jennifer Hunter, Coordinator
York River Study

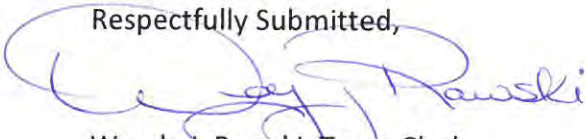
Please accept this letter as official notification of the Town of Eliot, Maine's election results for Article Ten of the November 6, 2018 Town Special Election & Referendum Municipal Warrant; *"Shall the Town endorse the York River Study Committee's recommendation to seek Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation, by the U.S. Congress for the York River and its major tributaries with the understanding that such designation would not involve National Park Service ownership or management of lands, and further, accept the committee's York River Watershed Stewardship Plan?"*.

The results were as follows:

Yes	2,501
No	933
Blank	<u>307</u>
Total Votes Cast	3,741

By majority vote, the Town of Eliot supported the endorsement of the York River Study Committee's recommendation to seek Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation.

Respectfully Submitted,



Wendy J. Rawski, Town Clerk
Town of Eliot, Maine



I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF THE OFFICIAL RESULTS OF
THE STATE AND LOCAL ELECTION THAT WAS HELD ON NOVEMBER 6, 2018.

ATTEST: *Mary-Anne Szeniewski*
MARY-ANNE SZENIEWSKI, TOWN CLERK

**SPECIMEN BALLOT
GENERAL REFERENDUM
TOWN OF YORK
NOVEMBER 6, 2018**

7859 VOTES CAST

Mary-Anne Szeniewski
Town Clerk

Instructions to Voters

- ♦ Fill in the oval next to your Yes or No choice, like this: ☒
- ♦ To have your vote count, do not erase or cross out your choice.
- ♦ If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

Trustees for York Sewer
District
Term Expires 12/31/2021
Vote for ONE (1)

☐ **Barry G. Davis**

5780

☐

..... Write-In

TWO: Shall the Town endorse the York River Study Committee's recommendation to seek Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River and its major tributaries with the understanding that designation would not involve National Park Service ownership or management of lands, and further, accept the committee's York River Watershed Stewardship Plan?

Statement of Fact: The York River Wild and Scenic Study, which was authorized by the US Congress, evaluated the York River for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System under its "Partnership" river model. The York River Study Committee believes a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation would provide key financial resources, technical assistance, and a local structure to best enable implementation of the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan. The Stewardship Plan is a non-regulatory guidance document that recommends strategies to preserve important historic, cultural, economic and natural resources in the York River watershed consistent with goals in towns' comprehensive plans.

Community support for designation and acceptance of the Stewardship Plan is a prerequisite to Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation. However, such endorsement does not commit the Town to provide any financial resources. Funding to implement the Stewardship Plan is anticipated to come from annual Congressional appropriations through the National Park Service's Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program if the York River is designated. There is no land ownership or management by the National Park Service, and there are no required changes to local ordinances with a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation.

Board of Selectmen recommends approval (3-2)

☐ YES 4765

☐ NO 2797

THREE: The Town hereby ordains to amend the **Business Directional Sign Ordinance**.

Statement of Fact: The purpose of this new Ordinance is to prohibit off-site business directional signs at the ends of, and along the length of Short Sands Road. Short Sands Road is the approved name for the new road in York Beach, which had been known informally in the past as the Connector Road and the York Beach Parkway. This prohibition would be retroactive to the date of the first public hearing on this amendment to prevent any applications prior to the public vote.

Board of Selectmen recommends approval (5-0)

☐ YES 5895

☐ NO 1589

FOUR: The Town hereby ordains to adopt a new **Ordinance Establishing Fire Protection Zones**.

Statement of Fact: The purpose of this new Ordinance is to ensure the voters set the boundaries of the service areas of the York Beach Fire Department and the York Village Fire Department.

Board of Selectmen recommends approval (5-0)

☐ YES 6718

☐ NO 781

**PLEASE VOTE BOTH SIDES
OF BALLOT**



Town of York
186 York Street
York, Maine 03909-1314

January 14, 2019

Town Manager/
Selectmen
(207)363-1000

Town Clerk/
Tax Collector
(207)363-1003

Finance/
Treasurer
(207)363-1004

Code Enforcement
(207)363-1002

Planning
(207)363-1007

Assessor
(207)363-1005

Police Department
(207)363-1031

Dispatch
(207)363-4444

York Beach Fire
Department
(207)363-1014

York Village Fire
Department
(207)363-1015

Public Works
(207)363-1011

Harbor Master
(207)363-1000

Senior Center
(207)363-1036

Parks and
Recreation
(207)363-1040

Fax
(207)363-1009
(207)363-1019

www.yorkmaine.org

Charles Ott, York River Study Committee Chair
c/o Wells National Estuarine Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Road
Wells, ME 04090

RE: Community Support for Wild & Scenic Designation of the York River

Mr. Ott,

In November the voters of the Town of York were asked whether the Town should support the proposal to seek Wild and Scenic River designation of the York River and its tributaries under the partnership river model, and concurrently endorse the Watershed Stewardship Plan. The result of the vote was that 63% of the voters supported the request to seek Wild and Scenic designation. The official vote count was 4,765 in favor versus 2,797 opposed.

Voters in the Town vote twice annually, and this is the 5th highest voter turnout in 29 years. The margin of the decision was significant – almost two to one. I believe it is safe to say this vote reflects the opinion of this community. There is a divergence of opinion, but a clear majority is in favor.

As Town Manager it is not my place to wax philosophic, but simply to present the outcome of this important public vote. If any further information would be helpful, please let me know.

I wish you the best in moving forward with this initiative.

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Burns
Town Manager



PARTNERSHIP WILD AND SCENIC RIVER YORK RIVER RESOLUTION

Kittery Town Council Resolution endorsing Designation of the York River and its major tributaries as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 USC 1271-1287) and further, endorsing the York River Study Committee's proposed York River Watershed Stewardship Plan.

Whereas, the York River is an iconic feature of our region with unique biological, historical, and economic features; and

Whereas, the locally-appointed York River Study Committee's three-year study of the York River watershed documents the importance of the York River's features to our region;

Whereas, the York River and its tributaries require long-term protection best accomplished through coordinated oversight by the four watershed communities (Kittery, Eliot, South Berwick, and York) with representatives appointed by those communities; and


Whereas, designation does not include any federal acquisition or management of lands; public access on private lands; any changes in land use regulation unless approved by each community; nor any financial obligation on the watershed communities;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Kittery Town Council supports designation of the York River and its major tributaries as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and further, the adoption of the York River Study Committee's proposed York River Watershed Stewardship Plan.

Adopted by the Kittery Town Council on the 26th day of November, 2018.

















Town of South Berwick

180 MAIN STREET
SOUTH BERWICK, MAINE 03908-1535
TEL. 207-384-3300
FAX: 207-384-3303

Resolution:

South Berwick Town Council Resolution endorsing the Designation of the York River and its major tributaries as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 USC 1271-1287) and further, endorsing the York River Study Committee's proposed York River Watershed Stewardship Plan

At the December 11, 2018 meeting of the South Berwick Town Council, the following resolution was adopted.

Whereas the York River is an iconic feature of our region with unique biological, historical, and economic features;

Whereas, the locally-appointed York River Study Committee's three-year study of the York River watershed documents the importance of the York River's features to our region;


Whereas the York River and its tributaries require long-term protection best accomplished through coordinated oversight by the four watershed communities (Kittery, Eliot, South Berwick, and York) with representatives appointed by those communities;

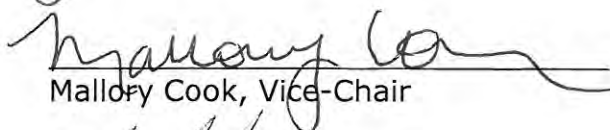
And

Whereas, designation does not include any federal acquisition or management of lands; public access on private lands; no changes in land use regulation unless approved by each community; nor any financial obligation on the watershed communities,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the South Berwick Town Council supports designation of the York River and its major tributaries as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and further, the adoption of the York River Study Committee's proposed York River Watershed Stewardship Plan.

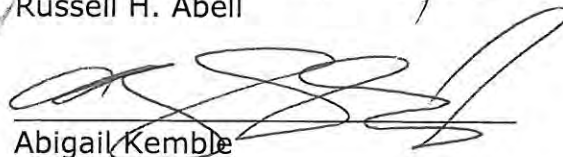
Adopted on the 11th day of December 2018.


John C. Kareckas, Chair


Mallory Cook, Vice-Chair


John James


Russell H. Abell


Abigail Kemble



Lydia Blume

PO Box 1738

York Beach, ME 03910

Phone: (207) 363-9235

lydia.blume@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: (207) 287-4469

December 17, 2018

Charles Ott, Chair

York River Study Committee

c/o Wells National Estuarine Reserve

342 Laudholm Farm Road

Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Chuck:

Next month I will begin my third term in Maine's House of Representatives serving on behalf of coastal York. The York River bisects District 3. I have come to know it well, as a resident, as an environmental activist, and a legislator focused on the welfare of my district and the whole of Maine's extensive, scenic, economically critical and endangered coast.

As the founder and leader of the legislature's Coastal Caucus and a member of the Marine Resources Committee, I am pleased to support including the York River in the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program, and to endorse the visionary stewardship plan put forward by your committee. Only coordinated efforts at the local, state and national levels can help our maritime regions weather changes in climate, sea rise and development.

The entirety of York's fishing industry is based in House District 3, largely in the York River. Economically, ecologically and culturally, what happens to the York River has a major impact on our fishermen and the wholesalers they supply. The river's future is their future. Happily, Wild & Scenic designation is supported by York commercial fishing interests. I am pleased to join them in endorsing this initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lydia C. Blume".

Lydia Blume



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: (207) 287-4469

Patricia Hymanson

34 High Pine Road
York, ME 03909
Residence: (207) 363-8353

December 17, 2018

Charles Ott, Chair
York River Study Committee
c/o Wells National Estuarine Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Road
Wells, Maine 04090

My legislative district, District 4, encompasses a large portion of the York River watershed. I have lived here for over 30 years, practicing medicine, raising a family, enjoying the wildlife in the woods and fields and along the river, volunteering for community organizations and now serving in the Maine House of Representatives. I love this rural area anchored by the river. I am pleased to support designating the York River as a component in the national Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program.

The stewardship plan your committee developed will do much for the York River, bringing together the four towns in the watershed, helping to coordinate planning for the preservation and best use of the river and its tributaries. This is a pristine yet fragile ecosystem that deserves special recognition and care.

I am heartened by the strong votes of approval the stewardship plan and Wild and Scenic designation have received in the four towns. I trust our representatives in Washington will do all possible to successfully move approval of designation through Congress.

If I may be of further assistance in your efforts, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Hymanson".



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Michele Meyer

58 Odiorne Lane

Eliot, ME 03903

Residence: (207) 438-9197

Michele.Meyer@legislature.maine.gov

January 7, 2019

Mr. Charles Ott, Chair
York River Study Committee
c/o Wells National Estuarine Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Rd
Wells, ME 04090

Dear Mr. Ott:

As the District 2 Maine House Representative (Eliot, parts of Kittery and South Berwick) and a resident of Eliot, I am in strong support of designating the York River and its major tributaries as a federal Partnership Wild and Scenic River. Opening the door to potential federal funds for ongoing study of this important natural resource, the designation will help the communities I represent to protect and enjoy the many river-related resources in the York River watershed.

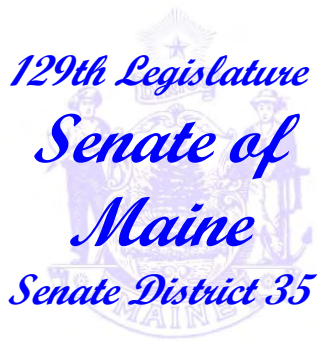
I am very pleased that the designation and local stewardship plan have received strong endorsements throughout the watershed communities, with 63 percent and 73 percent voter approval in York and Eliot respectively. I support the York River Study Committee's request of our Congressional delegation to sponsor a bill that would authorize designation of the York River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Such an action would have long-lasting benefits for our river and watershed communities.

If I may be of any further assistance to the valuable efforts of the York River Study Committee, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michele Meyer".

Michele Meyer
State Representative



Senator Mark W. Lawrence
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
(207) 287-1515

December 18, 2018

Charles Ott, Chair
York River Study Committee
c/o Wells National Estuarine Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Road
Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Mr. Ott:

My state senate district encompasses the whole of the York River watershed. I have lived my entire life here. I love this area, bound by the sea and Piscataqua River, south and west, and bisected by the York River. Thus, it is a pleasure to endorse designating the York River as a component in the national Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program.

The stewardship planning document developed by your committee presents positive ways to coordinate efforts to preserve, protect and enhance the York River, bringing together the four towns in the watershed. Balancing competing priorities—ecological, commercial and recreational—is a tall order, but one that has the best chance of success through a locally appointed advisory committee serving under the aegis of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Partnership Program.

Voters in York and Eliot, along with town councils in South Berwick and Kittery have endorsed the stewardship plan and Wild and Scenic designation. With this showing of support within the watershed by all four communities, I believe our representatives in Congress will take note and support legislation adding the York River to the national program.

Thank you for moving this important initiative forward.

All good wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark W. Lawrence".

Mark W. Lawrence

Dean's Office
352 Lafayette Street
Salem, Massachusetts 01970-5353
978-642-6324



Mr. Charles Ott
York River Study Committee Chair
c/o Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, Maine 04090

January 16, 2019

Dear Chuck:

I write to express my strong support for a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River and its major tributaries and support implementation of the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan. The partnership designation will help communities continue to protect the York River and the many exemplary resources contained in this coastal watershed.

I am a resident of York, Maine, and an archaeologist and historian who studies the amazingly rich history and architectural and archaeological resources of the York River. I was first drawn to the York River by its incredible history and its archaeological legacy more than 30 years ago. What I discovered ensured that I would never want to leave.

York River has a rich history, and contains a wealth of archaeological resources. Over 200 archaeological sites in York in the state's register; many important ones are close to river. The York River is particularly rich in 17th century sites, some of the best preserved in New England. Back then, most transportation was by boat, so many are within 50-100 feet of the river. Some sites are nationally and even internationally significant. My archaeological work revealed the remains of Point Christian Manor, the 1634 governor's mansion for the Province of Maine. Archaeological survey in 2017, relying on Federal monies discovered a range of prehistoric sites as well some historic sites Eliot and York, going back thousands of years.

Other important sites actually lie in the river because the first tidal powered saw mill in Maine (and probably in the United States) was built in York in 1634. Many other tide mills were constructed and some were in use through the 19th century. The remains of the 1634 mill dam, and a handful of others remain. Gravity powered mills also existed on tributaries York River.

The river contains a great assortment of important architectural history. Notably the McIntire Garrison - built in 1707 and believed to be oldest standing house in Maine. Sitting in close to its natural setting - you feel transported back in time when visiting the site. You can also find a warehouse briefly owned by John Hancock, a house where Mark Twain summered, and much more on the banks of the York River.

Not surprisingly, the designation and local stewardship plan have received strong endorsements throughout the four watershed communities. I support the York River Study Committee's request of our Congressional delegation to sponsor a bill that would authorize designation of the York River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Such an action would have long-lasting benefits for our river and watershed communities.

Sincerely,

Emerson W. Baker
Interim Dean
School of Graduate Studies



January 8, 2019

Charles Ott, Chair
York River Study Committee
c/o Wells National Estuarine Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Road
Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Charles Ott,

I am thrilled the York River Study Committee and larger coalition of four communities have worked together to assemble the background information on this largely unspoiled watershed. The public values are so high for this waterway, it is not surprising the study found the watershed to be eligible and suitable for a Partnership Wild and Scenic designation. The study does a great job showing the beauty and resources of the York River and its estuary.

With this area the fastest growing of the State, the threats are real and immediate and require the four towns work in concert to protect these resources for generations to come. I fully endorse the filing legislation adding the York River to the Partnership Wild and Scenic River Program. If successful, as I hope it will be, the Stewardship Plan will help these communities leverage resources to develop strategies and seize upon opportunities to protect and use natural and cultural resources wisely.

I have worked in the York River estuary and my observations of storm water impacts and overuse are credible threats to the ecology of the system. I hope the York River watershed is designated through congressional legislation, so these communities, the people of Maine, as well as summer visitors can realize the benefits of collaboration to preserve the functions and values of the system.

Sincerely,

David M. Burdick, Ph.D.
Interim Director

Jackson Estuarine Laboratory

13 Adams Point Road, Durham, New Hampshire 03824-3447, 603-862-2222, 603-862-2223

David W. Gittins
85 Bog Road
York, Maine 03909

January 16, 2019

Mr. Charles Ott
York River Study Committee Chair
c/o Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Chuck,

I would like to express my support for a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation of the York River and its tributaries and implementation of the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan. The designation will help not only York with the many benefits directly affecting our river, but also those neighboring towns within the common watershed.

As you know, I am a native of York and have been a saltwater flyfishing guide here for over 35 years. Over that period, I have seen several changes in landscape, habitat, and numbers and diversity of fish species here. Many of those observations are negative. I look forward to the resource and advisory benefits that will come from participation in this program.

Thank you for your commitment and hard work leading us through the study phase. I look forward to seeing you on the river!

Regards,

David W. Gittins

EDWARD W. LITTLE
11 MEETING HOUSE LANE
YORK, MAINE 03909

January 25, 2019

Mr. Charles Ott
York River Study Committee Chair
c/o Wells National Estuarine Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Mr. Ott:

Our residence is beside tidal Barrell Pond, and overlooks the Wiggley Bridge and York River. My wife and I have lived here for twenty five years and we have enjoyed the beauty of the river and its environs ecologically and culturally. This largely pristine river is truly the jewel of York. As a private citizen, and formerly as a member of the Board of Selectmen, I have worked to protect the York River.

And it needs protection. The river is constantly at risk from over-development and over use, and from the impact of climate change. I view including the York River in the national Wild & Scenic Rivers Partnership Program to be one of the most important ways to provide a forum and resources dedicated to the river's long-term health.

Thank you and your committee for spearheading efforts to make designation a reality.

Sincerely,



Edward W. Little

2/5/19

Charles Ott, Chair
York River Study Committee
c/o Wells National Estuarine Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Road
Wells, Maine 04090


Dear Mr. Ott,

I enthusiastically support a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River and its major tributaries and support implementation of the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan. The partnership designation will help communities continue to protect the York River and watershed resources.

York River is so important to our region's character, quality of life, and economy, and is a treasure for all. Its natural and historic resources have regional and national significance. Its clean water supports many recreational uses and provides healthy habitats for fish, birds, and other species. The working waterfront is important to the economy and cultural landscape. Watershed lands protect regional drinking water supplies. The local Stewardship Plan includes many options for a future stewardship committee and others to study, discuss, and implement to help protect these many watershed resources.

I am very pleased that the designation and local stewardship plan have received strong endorsements throughout the four watershed communities. I support the York River Study Committee's request of our Congressional delegation to sponsor a bill that would authorize designation of the York River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Such an action would have long-lasting benefits for our river and watershed communities.

Sincerely,



Scott Eldredge
627 US Rt 1
York, Me 03909

FRIENDS OF THE YORK RIVER

33 Barrell Lane
York, Maine 03909

17 December 2018

Mr. Charles Ott
York River Study Committee Chair
c/o Wells National Estuarine Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, Maine 04090

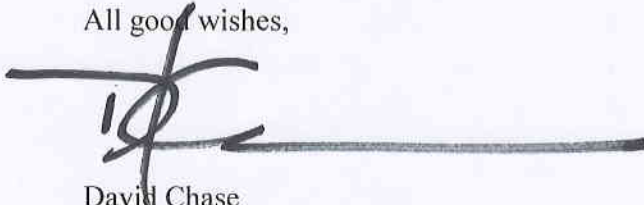
Dear Chuck:

It is my privilege to write on behalf of the Friends of the York River, endorsing the Stewardship Plan completed by your committee last summer. And further, now that designation has gained overwhelming support from voters and local government in the four towns in the York River watershed, The Friends wholeheartedly endorse adding the York River to the national Wild & Scenic Rivers Partnership Program.

Consideration of this possibility was initiated a decade ago, through the agency of the Friends. It is gratifying that such a long-term effort is now coming to fruition. Congratulations are due to Carol Donnelly, you and others for a remarkable and enduring sense of commitment, clear-eyed analysis of the ecological and historic resources to be protected, unwavering sensitivity to community values and community needs, and for the ability to transform vision, scientific data, patterns of use and local ordinances into a realistic management plan.

As the plan your committee crafted amply and ably documents, the York River is in superb condition yet under threat. Inclusion of our river into the national program will provide a comprehensive and well-funded approach to safeguarding the river through the coordinated efforts of York, Kittery, South Berwick and Eliot. May Maine's congressional delegation take up this opportunity to protect a rich and valued resource for generations to come.

All good wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "David Chase", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Chase



Maine Coast Heritage Trust

A Statewide Land Conservation Organization

January 29, 2019

Charles Ott, Chair
York River Study Committee
c/o Wells National Estuarine Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Road
Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Mr. Ott:

Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) strongly supports designation of the York River and its tributaries as a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, and implementation of the Stewardship Plan. Such designation will provide needed protection for the resource while supporting and reinforcing ongoing long-running local efforts to preserve this remarkably intact river, its watershed, coastal marshes, and ecosystem.

This river is a conservation priority for Maine. In 2005 MCHT selected it as a focus area and, since then, we have invested more than a million dollars in conservation there. MCHT also has a cooperative agreement with local land trusts to provide additional funding and services over the coming years.

MCHT has studied the York River marsh system as part of our coastwide analysis of salt marsh migration and sea level rise. The York River's coastal marsh system is not only large for the state of Maine, but unlike many other marshes, it is likely to be resilient to sea level rise -- according to our modeling, even increasing in size, if allowed to do so. We are acting on this knowledge and together with our local partners have completed or have underway multiple conservation projects whose purpose is to 'allow the marsh to migrate' onto undeveloped land that we are conserving.

There is a strong support from conservation partners and town residents, and this support will help the York River Stewardship Plan move forward. The river, once designated, will benefit from the ten-partner Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Initiative, of which MCHT is a founding member. This twenty-year collaboration, together with its predecessors, has protected thousands of acres in the York River watershed and adjacent watershed. MtA2C has long been engaged with the York River study and provides a ready-made vehicle for cooperative conservation across multiple towns in the watershed.

Local citizen support for the river's conservation is perhaps best demonstrated by votes to spend town funds on conservation purchases and easements. We have tracked these votes in southern Maine for almost twenty years. Southern Maine communities, with York in the lead, have spent more than \$4 million on conservation purchases since 2000. Recently, warrant articles in southern Maine for spending or allocating town funds for conservation have passed by margins ranging from 60% to 83%, a testimony to the strength of support for conservation in the region.

Finally, MCHT believes that designation will provide a valuable tool to local communities, one they can use to choose their own future. Rather than weakening local control, designation will in fact provide local communities with a tool that helps them have more control over their own destiny.

Please support designation of the York River and its tributaries, and implementation of the Stewardship Plan.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. T. Glidden', written in a cursive style.

William T. Glidden
President



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge
321 Port Road
Wells, ME 04090

February 25, 2019

Mr. Charles Ott
York River Study Committee Chair
c/o Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Chuck:

As a National Wildlife Refuge, Rachel Carson NWR is committed to conserving estuaries and rivers and the riparian habitat that borders them. The riverine salt marshes along the York River serve as essential habitat for many species of fish and wildlife including the saltmarsh sparrow. The saltmarsh sparrow is a salt marsh obligate that is currently experiencing steep population declines. The York River's riverine marsh system serves as critical refugia from the threats of sea-level rise and promotes successful reproduction of many rare and declining species.

The York River and watershed provide a variety of recreational opportunities for the community in addition to supporting healthy populations of smelt, herring, eel, lobster, and flounder. The watershed has a diversity of ecological communities including numerous freshwater wetlands and mixed hardwood forests. The Wild and Scenic designation of the York River would allow for recreational use and smart stewardship to continue side by side.

If a Wild and Scenic designation of York River occurs, it would ensure that stewardship and protection of this special river continues in perpetuity. In addition, Rachel Carson NWR strongly supports the implementation of the community-driven York River Watershed Stewardship Plan.

Sincerely,

Ryan Kleinert
Acting Refuge Manager



Serving the Municipalities of Southwestern Maine For Over 50 years

January 8, 2019

Mr. Charles Ott
York River Study Committee Chair
c/o Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Road
Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Chuck:

On behalf of the Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC), I would like to add our enthusiastic support to the Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River and its major tributaries and support implementation of the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan. The partnership designation will help communities, including the four within our planning district boundaries, continue to protect the York River and the many exemplary resources contained in this coastal watershed.

SMPDC has been engaged with this project for a number of years, including an assessment of natural and cultural resource features and land use threats within the watershed. We came to realize first-hand how important the York River is to our region's character, quality of life, and economy. Within the most rapidly growing part of the state, the river's natural and historic resources have regional and national significance. Its clean water supports many recreational uses and provides healthy habitats for fish, birds, and other species. The working waterfront is important to the economy and cultural landscape. Watershed lands protect regional drinking water supplies. The local Stewardship Plan includes many options for a future stewardship committee and others to study, discuss, and implement to help protect these many watershed resources. SMPDC helped develop many of these options and they present an array of non-regulatory and land use recommendations that the towns may work on both jointly and individually.

SMPDC is very pleased that the designation and local stewardship plan have received strong endorsements throughout the four watershed communities, all of whom with which we have a strong working relationship. We support the York River Study Committee's request of our Congressional delegation to sponsor a bill that would authorize designation of the York River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Such an action would have long-lasting benefits for our river and watershed communities.

Sincerely,

Paul Schumacher
Executive Director



wellsreserve

Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve

Research • Education • Stewardship

December 27, 2018

Charles A. Ott
Chair, York River Study Committee
29 Emus Way
York ME 03909

Dear Chuck:

As a National Estuarine Research Reserve, our organization is all about estuaries and rivers and the land that borders them. We have worked with communities and groups to study and protect rivers from those that flow into the Piscataqua River that separates Maine and New Hampshire to the river systems of Casco Bay. We have been very active in the York River watershed for 20 years in habitat restoration, fisheries research, assessments of clean water, and land conservation.

While all rivers and estuaries interest us, some rise above others. And in southern Maine the York River is a standout. It is for this reason that we became engaged with citizens of York, Eliot, Kittery, and South Berwick to explore the National Park Service Partnership Wild and Scenic Program, to work on the York River Stewardship Plan as a member of the Study Committee, and to enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service that helped fund the study.

On behalf of the Wells Reserve, I am expressing our strong support for the Partnership Wild and Scenic designation of the York River and its major tributaries. We further support the implementation of the community-driven York River Stewardship Plan.

The York River, along with Mt. Agamenticus, is one of southern Maine's defining features. Its waters are clean and flow to the sea in large part unencumbered from their origins high in the watershed at York Pond. The watershed has a diversity of habitats and ecological communities – extensive salt marshes, a mix of forest types and countless freshwater wetlands. Fish and wildlife abound.

But it is not just its natural values that make it special: The York River is a resource appreciated and used by people for hundreds of years – from Native Americans on through the periods of European settlement, when the river served as a vital transportation link and source of industry. The beautiful historic buildings and the remnants of old granite dams found today along the river testify to the historic value of the York River. The river is still valued and is used today. It is important culturally and economically to the communities.

The Partnership Wild and Scenic designation is a rare opportunity to ensure the proper care and use of the river for many generations to come. We support the sponsorship of a bill by the Maine Congressional delegation, and I hope that it will pass in the upcoming Congress.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Dest
Executive Director

January 7, 2019

Mr. Charles Ott
York River Study Committee Chair
c/o Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Mr. Ott:

On behalf of the Eliot Conservation Commission, I enthusiastically support a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River and its major tributaries and support implementation of the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan. The partnership designation will help communities continue to protect the York River and the many exemplary resources contained in this coastal watershed.

York River is so important to our region's character, quality of life, and economy, and is a treasure for all. Its natural and historic resources have regional and national significance. Its clean water supports many recreational uses and provides healthy habitats for fish, birds, and other species. The working waterfront is important to the economy and cultural landscape. Watershed lands protect regional drinking water supplies. The local Stewardship Plan includes many options for a future stewardship committee and others to study, discuss, and implement to help protect these many watershed resources.

I am very pleased that the designation and local stewardship plan have received strong endorsements throughout the four watershed communities. I support the York River Study Committee's request of our Congressional delegation to sponsor a bill that would authorize designation of the York River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Such an action would have long-lasting benefits for our river and watershed communities.

Sincerely,

Kari S. Moore
Eliot Conservation Commission, Chairperson

Eliot Historical Society
PO Box 3
Eliot, Maine 03903

13 February 2019

Mr. Charles Ott
York River Study Committee Chair
C/o Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Mr. Ott:

On behalf of the Eliot Historical Society I wish to express our support for a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River and its major tributaries and our support of the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan.

Our membership through its vote has indicated an enthusiastic support of the efforts of the York River Study Committee. The York River is important to us as history buffs, especially the headwaters in the Punkintown area and understanding the overall importance of the York River to this area's character, quality of life and economy.

I am very pleased to know that the designation and local stewardship plan have received strong endorsements throughout the four watershed communities. I support the York River Study Committee's request of our Congressional delegation to sponsor a bill that would authorize designation of the York River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Such an action would have long-lasting benefits for our river and watershed communities.

Sincerely,

Paul Johnson

Paul Johnson
President
Eliot Historical Society

TOWN OF ELIOT
INCORPORATED 1910
1333 STATE ROAD
ELIOT, MAINE 03903
456-1812

March 8, 2019

To Mr. Charles Ott, Chairman,

The Town of Eliot Select Board strongly supports pursuing Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River and its tributaries. The Select Board's support is echoed by the recent strong show of support for the ballot item which authorized designation of the York River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Being a watershed community and being perhaps the most rural of the communities in the watershed, we feel especially committed to the ongoing protection of the waterways and the proper development around the York River. Its waters support important wildlife and are of historic importance to the Town of Eliot. They also feed many of the drinking water wells and natural springs in that rural area of Eliot.

John J. Murphy, our Select Board chair actively participated in the study, together with Eliot resident Stefan Claesson, a marine archaeologist whose professional experience was very helpful in aerial mapping and historical sites studies.

Our townspeople overwhelmingly voted in support of the very fine Stewardship Plan created by the working group. All four of the watershed communities have supported this Stewardship Plan showing the strong regional support for the York River and its tributaries.

We encourage Congress to sponsor a bill that would authorize designation of the York River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Sincerely,

John J. Murphy, Chairman

Richard Donhauser, Secretary

Alexandro Orestis

Phillip Lytle, Vice Chairman

Robert McPherson

Select Board
Eliot, Maine

TOWN OF ELIOT
INCORPORATED 1910
1333 STATE ROAD
ELIOT, MAINE 03903
456-1812

Dec. 24, 2018

To Mr. Charles Ott, Chairman,

The Town of Eliot Maine is a community that strongly supports pursuing Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River and its tributaries. Being a watershed community and being perhaps the most rural of the communities in the watershed, we feel especially committed to the ongoing protection of the waterways and the proper development around the York River. Its waters support important wildlife and is of historic importance to the Town of Eliot. It also feeds many of the drinking water wells in that rural area of Eliot.

John J. Murphy, our Select Board chair actively participated in the study, together with Eliot resident Stefan Claesson, a marine archaeologist whose professional experience was very helpful in aerial mapping and historical sites studies.

Our townspeople overwhelmingly voted in support of the very fine Stewardship Plan created by the working group. All four of the watershed communities have supported this Stewardship Plan showing the strong regional support for the York River and its tributaries.

We encourage Congress to sponsor a bill that would authorize designation of the York River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Sincerely,

Dana K. Lee, M.P.P.M.
Town Manager
Eliot, Maine



*Celebrating over 30 years of Great Works,
conserving working landscapes and wildlife lands,
...saving the best for our children and theirs.*

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Margaret Miller-Wheeler, VP
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Bob Eger
David McDermott
Pat Robinson

Wells
Tim Smith
Director Emerita
Virginia Rausch

Staff

Director of Development

Ryan Romare
ryan.romare@gwrlt.org

Stewardship Director
Darral DeTour
ddetour@gwrlt.org

Administration & Membership
Fadi Hichem
fadihichem@gwrlt.org

Office Assistant
Jane Adams
jane.adams@gwrlt.org

Outreach Coordinator
Brenna Cradock
bcradock@gwrlt.org

January 7, 2019

Mr. Charles Ott

York River Study Committee Chair
c/o Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Mr. Ott:

Great Works Regional Land Trust enthusiastically supports a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River and its major tributaries and support implementation of the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan. The partnership designation will help communities continue to protect the York River and the many exemplary resources contained in this coastal watershed.

York River is so important to our region's character, quality of life, and economy, and is a treasure for all. Its natural and historic resources have regional and national significance. Its clean water supports many recreational uses and provides healthy habitats for fish, birds, and other species. The working waterfront is important to the economy and cultural landscape. Watershed lands protect regional drinking water supplies. The local Stewardship Plan includes many options for a future stewardship committee and others to study, discuss, and implement to help protect these many watershed resources.

It's significant that the designation and local stewardship plan have received strong endorsements throughout the four watershed communities. Great Works Regional Land Trust supports the York River Study Committee's request of our Congressional delegation to sponsor a bill that would authorize designation of the York River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Such an action would have long-lasting benefits for our river and watershed communities.

Sincerely,

Tom Gilmore
President, Board of Directors

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 151, South Berwick, ME 03908
207-646-3604 Office: Beach Plum Farm, 610 Main Street, Ogunquit, ME 03907 info@gwrlt.org

Providing conservation solutions to landowners and communities in the Berwick, Ellis, Ogunquit & Wells since 1986



Town of Kittery, Maine Conservation Commission

P.O. Box 808, Kittery, Maine 03904

DATE: October 16, 2018

TO: Ken Lamont, Town Council, Chair
Kendra Amaral, Town Manager

FROM: Earle Dean Wells, Chairman

RE: York River Project

Judy Spiller, Kittery Representative to the York River Project, recently attended a Conservation Commission meeting to present another update on the Project's progress. Judy has kept us well informed throughout each step of the entire process.

During the meeting a motion was made for the Conservation Commission to write a letter endorsing the York River Project to the Kittery Town Council before their December, 2018 meeting when the Councilors will be deciding whether or not to also endorse this project. The motion was seconded and unanimously voted to agree to send our letter of endorsement and support of this project and to work with other town officials to secure the protection of Kittery's portion of the York River and of our valuable watershed.

Thank you for your kind attention.



February 27, 2019

Mr. Charles Ott
York River Study Committee Chair
c/o Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Mr. Ott:

On behalf of the Kittery Land Trust, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the designation of the York River and its major tributaries as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River and the implementation of the York River Wild and Scenic Stewardship Plan.

Partnership designation will help communities such as Kittery continue to protect the York River and the many exemplary resources contained in this coastal watershed.

York River is so important to our region's character, quality of life, and economy, and is a treasure for all. Its natural and historic resources have regional and national significance. Its clean water supports many recreational uses and provides healthy habitats for fish, birds, and other species. Watershed lands protect regional drinking water supplies. The local Stewardship Plan includes many options for a future stewardship committee and others to study, discuss, and implement to help protect these many watershed resources.

I was very pleased to see that the designation proposal and the local stewardship plan received strong endorsements throughout the four watershed communities. I support the York River Study Committee's request of our Congressional delegation to sponsor a bill that would authorize designation of the York River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Such an action would have long-lasting benefits for our river and communities.

Sincerely,

Christine Bennett, Executive Director

Members of the Board of Directors
Katie Matis, President Bob Sheppard, Vice President Cynthia Dowick, Secretary
William Brewster Alex Dearborn Kim Fellows Faith Harrington
Steve Ostrow Melissa Paly Clayton Smith

Christine Bennett, Executive Director Cindy Kuliga, Administrative Assistant

Kittery Land Trust, Inc. P.O. Box 467 Kittery, ME 03904-0467 (207) 439-8989 www.kitterylandtrust.org



TOWN OF KITTERY
Planning and Development
200 Rogers Road, Kittery, ME 03904
Telephone: 207-475-1307 Fax: 207-439-6806

TO: TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: PLANNING BOARD

SUBJECT: YORK RIVER DESIGNATION AS A PARTNERSHIP WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

DATE: NOVEMBER 9, 2018
CC: KENDRA AMARAL, TOWN MANAGER; ADAM CAUSEY, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

The Kittery Planning Board urges the Kittery Town Council to endorse the designation of the York River and its major tributaries as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River and support the accompanying stewardship plan. We view the York River watershed as vital to our region. The portion of the watershed in Kittery is subject to significant growth pressure and the federal funding accompanying designation could be used to help us evaluate responsible growth there. We do understand that the stewardship committee, required as part of designation and whose membership is appointed by each watershed community's governance body, may recommend measures to protect the river but that any proposed land use changes will still have to be approved by each community's governance body.

As read and unanimously adopted by the Planning Board on November 8, 2018.

ROGER C. RAYMOND, JR., President
ROBERT P. WYMAN, Treasurer

JAMES E. GOLDER, Secretary
MICHAEL S. ROGERS, Superintendent

OFFICE OF

KITTERY WATER DISTRICT

17 State Road
Kittery, Maine 03904-1565
TEL: 207-439-1128
FAX: 207-439-8549
Email: kitterywater@comcast.net

Charles Ott, Chair
York River Study Committee
c/o Wells National Estuarine Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Road
Wells, ME 04090

February 8, 2019

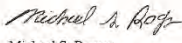
Re: York River Watershed Stewardship Plan

Dear Mr. Ott,

I am writing in regard to the Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River and the implementation of the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan. In 2018, the Kittery Water District met with the York River Study Committee to discuss our relationship that our four manmade water sources have with the York River and also shared our 10-year master plan with them.

In closing, the Kittery Water District basically supports the mission to support a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation providing this does not limit or reduce the rights we currently have as an abutter and contributor to the York River with the tributaries from both our four dams and watershed properties.

Sincerely,


Michael S. Rogers
Superintendent



January 9, 2019

Charles Ott
York River Study Committee Chair
c/o Wells National Estuarine Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Chuck:

I am writing on behalf of the Old York Historical Society to support the proposal to include the York River in the national Wild & Scenic Rivers Partnership Program. It is our hope that the Maine congressional delegation will file legislation adding the York River to the Wild and Scenic Partnership Program, and endorse the stewardship plan that has been developed by the York River Committee over the past months.

The York River and its watershed are historically significant on both local and national levels. The river and its tributaries have sustained communities of Native Americans, immigrant settlers, and the residents of Southern Maine for thousands of years.

Old Mill Creek, just west of York Village and I-95, was the site of the first tidal sawmill (1634) in what is now the United States, established by order of the Proprietor of Maine, Ferdinando Gorges. In fact, every stream along the York River once had tidal mills, the last being built in the 1720s.

Starting in the 19th century, as York developed a thriving tourist economy, the river attracted American luminaries such as the artist Winslow Homer in 1875 and humorist Mark Twain in 1902. Today the watershed is in need of study and protection, as the pressure of developing adjacent lands grows ever stronger.

The Federal expertise that comes with Wild and Scenic designation is welcomed for both protecting and interpreting the York's important historical and cultural sites. The Old York Historical Society Board of Trustees and I heartily endorse Wild and Scenic designation for the York River Watershed.

Sincerely,


Joel Lefever
Executive Director



Town of South Berwick

180 MAIN STREET
SOUTH BERWICK, MAINE 03908-1535
TEL: 207-384-3300
FAX: 207-384-3303

January 7, 2019

Mr. Charles Ott
York River Study Committee Chair
c/o Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, Maine 04090

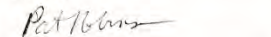
Dear Mr. Ott:

On behalf of the So Berwick Conservation Commission, we enthusiastically support a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River and its major tributaries and support implementation of the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan. The partnership designation will help communities continue to protect the York River and the many exemplary resources contained in this coastal watershed.

York River is so important to our region's character, quality of life, and economy, and is a treasure for all. Its natural and historic resources have regional and national significance. Its clean water supports many recreational uses and provides healthy habitats for fish, birds, and other species. The working waterfront is important to the economy and cultural landscape. Watershed lands protect regional drinking water supplies. The local Stewardship Plan includes many options for a future stewardship committee and others to study, discuss, and implement to help protect these many watershed resources.

We are very pleased that the designation and local stewardship plan have received strong endorsements throughout the four watershed communities. We support the York River Study Committee's request of our Congressional delegation to sponsor a bill that would authorize designation of the York River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Such an action would have long-lasting benefits for our river and watershed communities.

Sincerely,


Pat Robinson
Chair So Berwick Conservation Commission

York Country Club
P.O. Box 252
York Harbor, ME 03911
January 25, 2019

Charles Ott, Chair
York River Study Committee
c/o Wells National Estuarine Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Road
Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Chuck,

The York Country Club strongly supports a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River and its major tributaries and supports implementation of the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan.

The club was founded in 1900 as a golf and tennis club. In the 1920s our magnificent golf course was expanded along the York River so that we own a significant portion of river frontage just upstream from Sewall's Bridge. For several years our board has desired to put the course and 60 undeveloped acres adjacent to the course under a conservation easement. In concert with the York Golf and Tennis Club, which operates the facility under a long-term lease, we hope to finalize an easement with Maine Coast Heritage Trust later this year. Needless to say, preserving this part of the riverfront forever will be beneficial to the health of the York River.

We are very pleased that the designation and local stewardship plan have received strong endorsements from the four watershed communities. We support the York River Study Committee's request of our Congressional delegation to sponsor a bill that would authorize designation of the York River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Such an action would have long-lasting benefits for our river and watershed communities.

Sincerely,


Harold Stanwood, Jr.
President



Town of York
186 York Street
York, Maine 03909-1314

January 03, 2019

Mr. Charles Ott

York River Study Committee Chair

c/o Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve

342 Laudholm Farm Road

Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Chuck,

The York Harbor Board's seven members have voted unanimously to support the York River Study Committee's stewardship plan for a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation.

Your work on this plan will help protect both the historic and natural resources of the York River. The York River is an integral part of the beauty and vibrance of the Town of York and its surrounding communities. Every effort should be taken to preserve and protect the York River for the benefit of future generations.

Please let us know if there is anything more we can do to help you.

Sincerely,

David P. Webber

Chairman of the York Harbor Board

Town Manager/
Selectman
(207)363-1000

Town Clerk/
Tax Collector
(207)363-1003

Finance/
Treasurer
(207)363-1004

Code Enforcement
(207)363-1002

Planning
(207)363-1007

Assessor
(207)363-1005

Police Department
(207)363-1031

Dispatch
(207)363-4444

York Beach Fire
Department
(207)363-1014

York Village Fire
Department
(207)363-1015

Public Works
(207)363-1011

Harbor Master
(207)363-1000

Senior Center
(207)363-4036

Parks and
Recreation
(207)363-1040

Fax
(207)363-1019
(207)363-1019

www.yorkmaine.org



January 10, 2019

Mr. Charles Ott

York River Study Committee Chair

c/o Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve

342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Chuck,

I am writing on behalf of York Land Trust's Board of Directors and staff to express our strong support for implementing the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan and a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River and its major tributaries.

The York River is a vital resource that provides habitat to over 100 species of birds and 26 species of fish, recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to York, and access to commercial fishermen who rely on the waterway for their livelihoods.

The Stewardship Plan offers a wide array of optional recommendations for the community to consider implementing to help protect the river and keep it healthy. It will aid interested, local stakeholders in their efforts to:

- mitigate invasive species that are rapidly spreading in areas of the River,
- reduce non-point source pollution that degrades water quality,
- promote good stewardship of lands along the River by encouraging landowners to keep vegetative buffers and practice organic lawn care, and
- improve fish passage by removing barriers or replacing undersized culverts where needed.

York Land Trust looks forward to playing a role in helping to implement the recommendations in the Stewardship Plan. I urge the York River Study Committee to move forward in requesting Maine's Congressional delegation to sponsor a bill that would authorize designation of the York River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This will help ensure protection of the York River for the benefit of current and future generations.

Sincerely,

Doreen MacGillis
Executive Director

Board of Directors

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President

• Robert Bishop
Vice President

• Larry Cohen
Treasurer

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Secretary

• John Adams

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• Dr. Erikson Ivers

• Debby Dierker

• Susan MacGillis

• David Leight

• Annette McKinnley

• David McInerney

• Mike Zink

• Bernadine Spore

• Charles Steedman

• Dennis MacGillis
Executive Director

• York Land Trust
1 Long Beach Marsh Road
York, ME 03909
207-663-7900

• info.yorklandtrust.org
www.yorklandtrust.org

• York Stewardship Council
Certified Paper

**YORK LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION
YORK, MAINE**

January 28th, 2019
14 Scotland Point Rd
York, Maine 03909

Mr. Chuck Ott
York River Study Committee Chair
c/o Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Road
Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Mr. Ott

I am writing on behalf of the York Lobstermen's Association. The Association consists of approximately 25 full time lobster fishermen from York, Maine. We strongly support the efforts of the York River Study Group to secure the Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River and its major tributaries.

Currently, the York River watershed remains extremely viable and intact due to the voluntary efforts of the four towns in the watershed. The nutrient ebb and flow, in and out of the York River, nourishes large stretches of our oceanic coast line south to Kittery, ME and north to Ogunquit and Wells, Maine. This helps support our fishery and the traditional livelihoods of many families. Other historic, recreational, upland habits and regional benefits have been well documented.

Moving forward, as you know, the local stewardship plan put forth by the Study Committee has been strongly endorsed by the four watershed communities. If given the opportunity these Towns are prepared to continue their efforts to protect and advocate for the River to insure the sustainability its resources.

We support and encourage your request to the our Congressional delegation to sponsor legislation that would authorize the inclusion of the York River in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The benefit of this would be immediate and have a positive effect well into the future for our children and our traditional way of life.

We wish you luck with this continuing task. Please let me know if there is anything further that might be of assistance. Your hard work, diligence and perseverance is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jeff White, President
York Lobstermen's Association



186 York Street | York, Maine 03909 | 207-363-1040 | www.yorkparksandrec.org

February 5, 2019

Mr. Charles Ott, Chair

York River Study Committee

c/o Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve

342 Laudholm Farm Road

Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Mr. Ott:

It is with great enthusiasm that I offer this letter on behalf of the York Parks and Recreation Department to support a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River and its major tributaries and support implementation of the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan. The partnership designation will help communities continue to protect the York River and many exemplary resources contained in this coastal watershed.

York River is so important to our region's character, quality of life, and economy, and is a treasure for all. Its natural and historic resources have regional and national significance. Its clean water supports many recreational uses and provides healthy habitats for fish, birds, and other species. The working waterfront is important to the economy and cultural landscape. Watershed lands protect regional drinking water supplies. The local stewardship Plan includes many options for a future stewardship committee and others to study, discuss, and implement to help protect these many watershed resources.

I am pleased that the designation and local stewardship plan have received strong endorsements throughout the four watershed communities. I support the York River Study Committee's request of our Congressional delegation to sponsor a bill that would authorize designation of the York River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system. Such an action would have long-lasting benefits for our river and watershed communities.

Sincerely,

Robin Cogger
Parks and Recreation Director

January 22, 2019

Mr. Charles Ott
York River Study Committee Chair
c/o Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Road
Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Chairman Ott:

The Town of York Planning Board has unanimously voted to support a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River and its major tributaries. The Planning Board supports implementation of the York River Watershed Stewardship Plan.

The Town of York, the first settlement in the State of Maine, was originally and has always been developed around the mouth of the York River. The working waterfront serves as a big part of the economy and cultural landscape of the Town of York. The local Stewardship Plan includes many options for a future stewardship committee and others to study, discuss and implement the protection of the many watershed resources.

The four watershed communities hosting the York River have strongly endorsed this designation. The York Planning Board supports the request of our Congressional delegation to sponsor a bill authorizing designation of the York River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Sincerely,

Al Cotton

Alfred J. Cotton, Jr.
Chairman
Planning Board
Town of York, Maine
alcotton@aol.com



January 18, 2019

Mr. Charles Ott
York River Study Committee Chair
c/o Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Mr. Ott:

Your committee has done an excellent job, not only in assessing the condition and importance of the York River, but equally in keeping the local community abreast of what has been learned about how best to protect river and the surrounding watershed going forward.

As a volunteer organization, we salute the dedication of your all-volunteer committee: the work of the Study Committee is a fine example of civic engagement devoted to community improvement. In particular, we appreciate your efforts to keep the York Rotary Club informed about your committee's progress, on the import of the national Wild & Scenic Rivers Partnership Program, and how the program can benefit not only York, but neighboring towns as well.

On behalf of the club, I write to offer our support for including the York River in the national program, and wish you success as you present your findings to the National Park Service and Maine's congressional delegation.

All good wishes,

Holly Sargent
President 2017-2018

1/22/19

Mr. Charles Ott
York River Study Committee Chair
c/o Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve
342 Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, Maine 04090

Dear Chuck:

On behalf of the Town of York Shellfish Commission, I am writing to express our strong support for a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation for the York River and its major tributaries.

The purpose of the York Shellfish Commission is to protect and nurture the shellfish resources in the York River. Each year, up to 150 recreational shellfish licenses may be issued to area residences who enjoy harvesting shellfish, mostly soft-shell clams, from the flats of the York River. Shellfish harvesting is permitted only on Sundays from December through April. Clams in the York River are typically found in rocky areas making the digging quite challenging; yet for many of our diggers and their families there is simply no better way to spend a winter Sunday.

Unfortunately, the future of our shellfish resources is very much in question. Invasive Green Crab have taken a toll on clam beds and the potential implications of ocean acidification are frightening. As such, the York Shellfish Commission is excited for the support in managing and protecting our resources. We are excited about by the potential funding, research, and capacity that will come with Wild and Scenic River designation. We believe that we will have a lot to share with other Maine coastal communities as they look to manage their resources as well.

Water quality is the certainly the most critical component for recreational shellfish harvesting. However, we all know that water quality is important for so many other commercial and recreational activities. The York River possesses excellent water quality and area residence are fortunate to be able to boat, swim, kayak, fish, and harvest in its clean waters. Wild and Scenic River designation will ensure that the York River maintains excellent water quality for generations to come.

I am very pleased that the designation and local stewardship plan have received strong endorsements from the four watershed communities. I support the York River Study Committee's request of our Congressional delegation to sponsor a bill that would authorize designation of the York River into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Such an action would have long-lasting benefits for our river and watershed communities.

Sincerely,

Michael Masi
Secretary, Town of York Shellfish Commission