



BLACKSTONE RIVER

WATERSHED COUNCIL

Friends of the Blackstone

May 7, 2026

Jeffrey Willis
Executive Director
Coastal Resource Management Council
Stedman Government Center
Suite 116, 4808 Tower Hill Rd.
Wakefield, RI 02879-1900

RE: File Number 2026-01-023
Pawtucket Redevelopment Authority Application for Assent

Dear Mr. Willis,

The Blackstone River Watershed Council (BRWC) fully supports the Pawtucket Redevelopment Authority's Application for Assent for a fishway and associated site work and amenities on the Blackstone River in Pawtucket. The BRWC has been working since 2000 with the RI Department of Environmental Management to advance fish passage around the first four dams to the Valley Falls Marsh. The Pawtucket ladder around the first two dams on the lower Blackstone is critical to the success of the domino effect leading upriver. The completion of fish passage around the Main St. Dam and the Slater Mill Dam will be a significant milestone in the restoration of anadromous fish runs on the Blackstone River. The project enjoys broad community support as well as design funding from the Narraganset Bay Estuary Program, which has identified fish passage on the lower Blackstone as a top priority. Since 2023, the BRWC has been participating in the Blackstone Community Advisory Committee to garner community support for this project.

Respectfully,

John Marsland

Received

5/8/2026

**Coastal Resources
Management Council**



May 7, 2026

Jeffrey Willis
Executive Director
Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council
Stedman Government Center
Suite 116, 4808 Tower Hill Rd.
Wakefield, RI 02879-1900

RE: File Number 2026-01-023
Pawtucket Redevelopment Authority Application for Assent

Dear Mr. Willis:

The Blackstone Watershed Collaborative is pleased to provide this letter in strong support of the Pawtucket Redevelopment Authority's Application for Assent for the proposed fishway and associated site improvements at the Main Street and Slater Mill dams on the Blackstone River in Pawtucket.

The Collaborative has worked closely with project partners including the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, tribal partners including the Narragansett Indian Tribe, municipalities, nonprofit organizations, and community stakeholders to advance fish passage and river restoration goals throughout the watershed.

Restoring aquatic connectivity at these barriers represents a significant opportunity for ecological restoration on the lower Blackstone River. The proposed fish passage improvements will help restore access to historic spawning habitat for migratory fish species while also supporting broader watershed resilience, habitat restoration, and public access objectives.

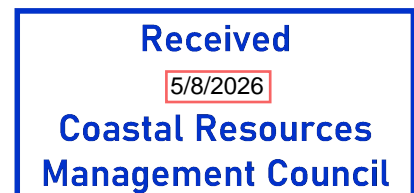
Since 2023, the Collaborative has facilitated the Blackstone Community Advisory Committee process associated with this effort, helping support a transparent and inclusive public engagement process as designs and project concepts have advanced.

This project has demonstrated broad regional and community support, and we respectfully encourage the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council to approve this Application for Assent.

Thank you for your consideration.

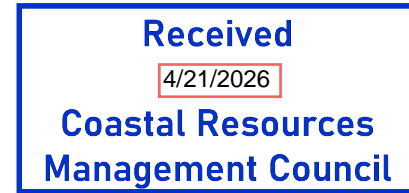
Sincerely,

Stefanie Covino
Executive Director, Blackstone Watershed Collaborative



April 17, 2026

Jeffrey Willis
Executive Director
Coastal Resource Management Council
Stedman Government Center
Suite 116, 4808 Tower Hill Rd.
Wakefield, RI 02879-1900



RE: File Number 2026-01-023
Pawtucket Redevelopment Authority Application for Assent

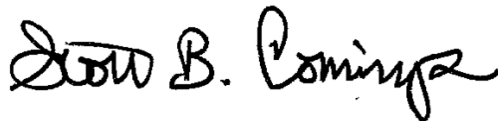
Dear Mr. Willis:

The Nature Conservancy Rhode Island fully supports the Pawtucket Redevelopment Authority's Application for Assent for a fishway and associated site work and amenities on the Blackstone River in Pawtucket. TNC RI has been working for several years with the RI Department of Environmental Management to advance fish passage around two dams in this critical location on the lower Blackstone. The completion of fish passage around the Main St. Dam and the Slater Mill Dam will be a significant milestone in the restoration of anadromous fish runs on the Blackstone River.

The project enjoys broad community support as well as design funding from the Narraganset Bay Estuary Program, which has identified fish passage on the lower Blackstone as a top priority. Since 2023, the project team has been participating in the Blackstone Community Advisory Committee to ensure that the design process is comprehensive and transparent.

Please let me know if TNC RI can provide more information in support of this application.

Sincerely,



Scott B. Comings
Associate State Director
Rhode Island Chapter
Rhode Island Chapter