



MASSACHUSETTS Rivers Alliance

2343 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02140
617-714-4272 • www.massriversalliance.org

June 12, 2018

Mark P. Smith
President
Belmont

Nancy Hammett
Vice President
Watertown

Andrea Franz
Treasurer
Charlestown

Paul Beaulieu
Secretary
Granby

Anna Aguilera
Needham

Wayne Castonguay
Ipswich

Roger Colton
Belmont

Ian Cooke
Acton

Mary Griffin
Hingham

Judith Grinnell
North Adams

Andrew Magee
Acton

Nagesh Mahanthappa
Acton

Deirdre Menoyo
Manchester

Pam Resor
Acton

Heidi Ricci
Shirley

Emily Scerbo
Westminster

Julia Blatt
Executive Director

Gabby Queenan
Policy Director

Dani Keith
Operations Manager

Jamie Fosburgh, NPS, Manager, Northeast Region Rivers Program
Lucy Wallace, Chair, NRWSR Study Committee
Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Committee
c/o **Nashua River Watershed Association**
592 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

Dear Mr. Fosburgh and Ms. Wallace:

As Executive Director of the Massachusetts Rivers Alliance, I have the privilege of having a “bird’s eye view” of all the river systems across the Commonwealth. The mission of the Massachusetts Rivers Alliance is to protect and restore Massachusetts’ rivers and streams, and to connect and strengthen our member organizations. The Nashua River Watershed Association is one of 70+ organizational members that make up our alliance. It is with great enthusiasm that I support the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers for Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation. Their river-related resources, as detailed in the Stewardship Plan, are without question worthy of this national distinction.

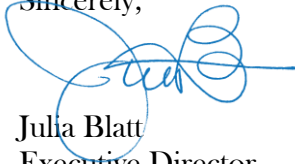
As the former Executive Director of the Organization for the Assabet River, I worked for many years on the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord designation as Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers, and I have since seen firsthand both the program’s benefits, and what is required to make the most of the opportunity.

I have worked with the Nashua River Watershed Association for over two decades, and am familiar with the exceptionally strong conservation networks and partnerships that have been forged throughout the nine Massachusetts communities and the two New Hampshire communities. This is evidenced in the Association’s leadership of the Study Committee and in the development of the Stewardship Plan, which reflects input from resource experts in state agencies and academic institutions, local land trusts and conservation groups, businesses, planning agencies, and municipalities. There is no doubt that the Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Committee is poised to work with others in successful implementation of the voluntary Plan.

Recently I attended the national River Rally in Lake Tahoe, California, and participated in the working session for Wild and Scenic Rivers across the country. I was appointed to a new national advisory committee for Wild and Scenic Rivers. Again, having so recently thought about the rivers across the nation, I assert that the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers are a perfect fit for the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers program and urge Congress to designate them during this 50th Anniversary year of the national program.

On behalf of the Massachusetts Rivers Alliance, I look forward to working with the Nashua River Watershed Association and its partners to implement the “Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Stewardship Plan.” Please don’t hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions for me. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julia Blatt', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the left and another to the right.

Julia Blatt
Executive Director