



Northwest Conservation District

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July 13, 2015

Housatonic River Commission (HRC)
c/o Jocelyn Ayer – Northwest Hills Council of Governments
42D North Street, Goshen, CT 06756

Dear Commission Members:

The Northwest Conservation District (NCD) wishes to extend its support to the Housatonic River Commission in their pursuit of a “Wild and Scenic” (W&S) designation for the Housatonic River. Specifically, the segment of the Housatonic River that runs through northwestern Connecticut towns from the Massachusetts line to Boardman Bridge in New Milford. We have partnered with northwestern Connecticut towns in the W&S segment of the Farmington River on a range of projects and the environment, local economies, and residents have only benefited from the results. We look forward to assisting the Housatonic River Commission with similar beneficial projects.

The Housatonic River watershed towns will face obstacles similar to ones dealt with when the Farmington River was seeking a W&S designation. These issues include working with existing privately owned, and future commercial and residential development within areas proposed to be W&S. Twenty years ago, Farmington River west branch towns took the leap, with the support of W&S partners including the Farmington River Watershed (FRWA), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and many likeminded organizations such as NCD. It has been through a long collaborative process, that in the words of FRWA executive director Eileen Fielding, speaking at a celebration of 20 years of Farmington River W&S designation, said: “We, W&S partners, have done so much together to fix erosion, study river flow, monitor water quality, provide technical services to towns, award scholarships, improve river access, help acquire conservation land, restore habitat, control stormwater run-over – all locally determined projects that fill local needs”. For 20 years, Farmington River West Branch towns have only benefitted from the W&S designation, and we are sure that the Housatonic River will reap the same benefits when the W&S designation is adopted.

NCD will stand united with you in support of your quest for W&S designation, as we did 20 years ago for Farmington River West Branch towns. The extraordinary quality of life in Northwestern Connecticut is why many of us choose to live here, and we look forward to assisting you with your efforts to preserve what makes the Northwest Corner of the state so startlingly beautiful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sean Hayden".

Sean Hayden - Executive Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Curtis S. Read".

Curtis S. Read – Chairman of the Board of Directors