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### III. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

#### Taunton River Stewardship Council

##### *Purpose*

The purpose of the Taunton River Stewardship Council (Council) is to promote the long-term protection of the river by 1) bringing together on a regular basis various parties responsible for river management; 2) facilitating agreements and coordination among them; 3) providing a focus and a forum for all river interests to discuss and make recommendations regarding issues of concern; and 4) coordinating implementation of the Taunton River Stewardship Plan.

The Council will continue the efforts of the Study Committee to create a participatory and cooperative management framework. The Council will ensure that there is communication among all partners in the protection of the Taunton River, and will provide a forum for discussion of river issues, priorities and proposed actions.

The Council will be the principal entity devoted to the implementation of the Taunton River Stewardship Plan, and will establish priorities, workplans, action plans and similar strategies to advance implementation of the Plan.

##### *Advisory Function*

The Council will work to complement and support the roles and activities of partners working in the Taunton River Watershed. It will not have a regulatory role, but will act on an advisory basis to existing entities that have management or regulatory authority on the river, including the individual member entities of the Council.

The Council may undertake projects directly or sponsor projects in partnership with its individual member entities & partners.

##### *Responsibilities*

The Taunton River Stewardship Council will have the following responsibilities:

- Meet on a regular basis with all meetings open to the public.

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- Develop annual action plans/workplans based on the Taunton River Stewardship Plan and priorities set by the Council.
  - Report annually to the member institutions of the Council on Council activities, accomplishments, plans, etc.
  - Advise the National Park Service, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, communities and other entities on issues and concerns related to the Taunton River.
  - Periodically review the plan and consider revisions and updates as appropriate.

### *Membership*

**Core membership:** The following entities will constitute the core membership of the Stewardship Council.

- Town of Bridgewater
- Town of Halifax
- Town of Middleborough
- Town of Raynham
- City of Taunton
- Town of Berkley
- Town of Freetown
- Town of Dighton
- Town of Somerset
- City of Fall River
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- National Park Service
- SRPEDD
- Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts
- Natural Resources Trust of Bridgewater
- Taunton River Watershed Alliance (TRWA)
- Save the Bay
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Council Oak Wampanoags, Massachusetts