



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
P.O. Box 395
Pleasant Valley, CT 06063
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Approved Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting
Monday, April 4, 2011
Squire’s Tavern
100 East River Road, Pleasant Valley

Present: Tim Anthony (MDC Rep), Roger Behrens (Barkhamsted Alt), Tiffany Caisse (SCA/Americorps Apprentice), Eileen Fielding (FRWA Alt/Treas.), Liz Lacy (NPS Alt/FRCC Director), Alison Murdock (New Hartford Rep), Susan Peterson (CT DEP Rep/Sec.), Cherie Robinson (Canton Alt/Vice Chair), Mario Santoro (Barkhamsted Rep), David Sinish (FRWA Rep)

Guests: Alex Beauchene (Mike Beauchene’s son), Mike Beauchene (CT DEP-Water), Bill Case (TU-Farmington Valley Chapter), Betsy Corrigan (FRCC Invasive Plants Consultant), Neal Hagstrom (CT DEP-Inland Fisheries); Don Mysling (CT DEP–Inland Fisheries)

1. **Presentation:** Mike Beauchene of the CT DEP Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse provided a PowerPoint presentation on Didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*), an invasive alga also known commonly as “Rock Snot”, which was recently discovered in the Upper Farmington River. Neal Hagstrom of the CT DEP Bureau of Natural Resources – Inland Fisheries Division, provided additional information. A PowerPoint handout was distributed. Additional information on Didymo can be found on the CT DEP website.
2. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Robinson at 8:05 p.m.
3. **Approval of Minutes of January 31, 2011 meeting:** The Minutes were approved with the following notes/changes:
 - p. 3 – Under Executive Committee – Grants – Lacy will fill in the missing dollar amounts (ie. - \$???)
 - p. 3 – Under Executive Committee – Proposed 2011 Work Plan – Fielding asked that it be noted that she was the one who abstained from the vote because FRWA is one of the organizations identified to receive funding.
4. **Treasurer’s Report:** Fielding reviewed the Treasurer’s Report which was distributed as a handout. She noted that the date(s) at the bottom of the handout should be changed from 1/27/11 to 3/30/11. As of 3/30/11, the new checking account balance was \$22,874.19; and the new scholarship fund balance was \$4,522.21.

Fielding noted that a transfer of \$90,137.81 was received from NPS. \$40,000 of this amount was transferred to the Lower Farmington W&S Study. Most of the FRCC remainder was spent on outstanding expenses. It was noted that the last FRCC rent check for Squire’s Tavern needs to be tracked down and accounted for, as it was not recorded as being paid. Also, with regard to the Acorn Studio expense of \$950.00, it should be listed under “description” that this was for work on the waterproof map.

Lacy mentioned that she makes copies for the file of all bills that come to FRCC before sending them on to FRWA for payment.

5. Old Business:

Executive SubCommittee – This item was moved up on the meeting agenda. Lacy led updates.

- **Proposed 2011 Work Plan** - This was discussed at length in the Executive SubCommittee meeting just prior to this evening's full committee meeting. Lacy has been working on the spreadsheet. We had put a lot of money in the 2011 budget for the projects we had identified for this year. However, as it turns out, we have received less funding from NPS than projected. Lacy is concerned about having a balanced budget. As a result, the Executive Committee needed to go back through the budget and make changes to accommodate the lower funding level. Items already under contract were not modified, except in one case where we may need to renegotiate a signed contract with FRWA regarding mapping needs. Lacy will send out an updated version of the spreadsheet. Committee members will then have a chance to review the financials before voting on the changes.

No funding has been attached to Management Plan Update. Sinish expressed concern about the river access piece, and losing another season. Lacy said we may need to figure out another way to get the user capacity study done, whether through academia or other means. Joyce Kennedy Raymes is currently tied up with the Lower Farmington W&S at the moment, and her time has been limited. Fielding suggested the possibility of contacting the NW Community Foundation. Perhaps FRWA (on behalf of FRCC) could look into possible grant funding. Lacy can also check with NPS about funding.

Since Land Protection has been cut back significantly except for funding to an already approved project, Anthony asked what would happen if an important land protection were to come up. Lacy indicated that we would not be able to fund additional projects because of budget reductions.

- **Management Plan Update** – Kennedy Raymes is aiming to have the first redraft of the Management Plan ready by May 3. We also need to consider what maps to include. Also need to figure out how to do the user capacity study.

- **Annual Report** – Lacy is close to finalizing this. She will be sending it out to the Executive Committee for review.

Resource Stewardship SubCommittee – Anthony led the updates. Anthony noted the Resource Stewardship SubCommittee met via conference call on March 7th.

- **Greenwoods Anglers Trail** – Signs have been designed. Next step will be to figure out where to get signs made.

- **Water Quality Monitoring** – On-going

- **Land Protection** – Referred to previous discussion under Executive SubCommittee update regarding lack of available funds.

- **Invasive Plants Management Project** – Received update from Betsy Corrigan for Sept. - Dec. 2010. Also received proposal for 2011. Lacy had sent out a copy of the proposal for review and most people thought it was fine. Lacy needs to create the contract.

- **Still River Watershed Study** – Fielding indicated that there have been no changes since last report. It is too early in the season to start implementation work.

- **Vernal Pools** – Caisse said they got letters out to landowners in Canton, and received 10 replies granting permission to access property. Fielding noted that one letter “declined” access because the owners said the vernal pool in question was actually a fire pond. New Hartford will be next, and they are still waiting on data for Colebrook. Caisse said they need to get the location/coordinates of the vernal pools before they can pursue landowner addresses and request permission. Anthony commented that it is important to ground truth the vernal pools. Fielding noted that Jeff Bolton had logged approx. 40 hours on vernal pool mapping.

- **Mapping** – Discussed needs for Management Plan Update, etc. We will need to re-think mapping needs, given changed financial situation.

Education and Outreach Subcommittee – Sinish led updates.

- **Newsletter** – Is at the printer.

- **Website** – Minor updates. The “blog” has had successful posts. Be prepared for an e-mail from Caisse.

- **Kiosks** – “Kiosk-keepers” will soon be up and running.

- **Open House** – Nothing to report

- **River Etiquette Package** – Will be at the printer by the end of the week. Sinish shared a copy. Peterson asked about including information on Didymo. Sinish said he had discussed this with Lacy, and they decided that it was too late to include this information since the brochure had already been finalized for the printer. The river etiquette package should be ready in a couple of weeks.

- **Scholarships** - Packets have been sent out. Nothing further to report at this time.

- **Outings** – FRCC pre-meeting outings will be happening ... Stay tuned.

- **Facebook** - Is currently being updated

Outreach to Town Boards, etc. – The news about the discovery of Didymo might provide a good opportunity to speak to Town Boards and other groups. Peterson cautioned that CT DEP Inland Fisheries is the “lead” on this issue, and it would be a good idea to touch base with them before pursuing outreach.

- **DVD** – This has been “scratched” from list due to budgetary concerns, etc. It still may happen but perhaps through other means.

- **Memorial Bench** – Fielding noted that, according to discussion at the last meeting, this is no longer an issue for the Education and Outreach Subcommittee, except with regard to a memorial bench for Randy Pease.

Related to this, Sinish noted that a lot of rip-rap had been placed along the river across from the area where the bench is located. Lacy, Caisse and Anthony may have a conversation with the CT DOT staff working along the river, if the opportunity arises.

6. New Business/Other

Junior River Rangers – Caisse described how the NPS – Wild & Scenic program is trying to create a Junior River Rangers program, based on the Junior Ranger program at our National Parks. The purpose would be to try to get youth out to enjoy the river by developing a packet of materials for kids. FRCC would be helping to develop this new Junior River Rangers program, and piloting it this summer. There is only one other W&S river where this program is also being piloted. This program would present an opportunity to link with the State Park campground, etc. Fielding suggested tapping into River Network’s listserv for help in finding information. Lacy said that they are actually overloaded with information right now, and need to pare it back. Plan to have a draft packet of information by the end of the month. Caisse has attended a number of PTO meetings to discuss this project, and the PTO groups are excited and willing to help out. She is also trying to hook up with day camps.

New Hartford WWTP – Peterson noted that the draft NPDES permit for the WWTP may be released by the end of April for public comment. Peterson has been checking in with the CT DEP staff working on the permit, and will let FRCC know when it is released for comment.

Related to this, Lacy noted that the Eightmile W&S group has been discussing NPDES permits related to projects affecting 5 acres or more.

FRWA “Spring Fling” Fund Raising Event – Fielding distributed a flyer for an FRWA fund raising event to be held on April 20 at Infinity Music Hall in Norfolk.

7. Town Reports

New Hartford – On April 6, the New Hartford Land Trust and Historical Society are sponsoring a program entitled “Changing Land, Changing Animals”, which will be led by Margery Winters of the Roaring Brook Nature Center. Also, the auction/fundraiser for the Pat Keener Memorial is being held this week.

8. **Next meeting dates:** May 16

9. **Adjourn:** 9:26 p.m.