



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
P.O. Box 395
Pleasant Valley, CT 06063
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Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting
Monday, February 8, 2010
Squire’s Tavern, 100 East River Road, Pleasant Valley

Present: Tim Anthony (MDC Rep), Eileen Fielding (FRWA Alt), Nicki Hall (Hartland Alt), Fred Jones (Hartland Rep), Tom Karpeichik (FRAA Alt), Liz Lacy (NPS Alt/FRCC Director), Margaret Miner (Rivers Alliance of CT/Guest Speaker), Alison Murdock (New Hartford Rep), Susan Peterson (DEP Rep/Secretary), Cherie Robinson (Canton Alt), Mario Santoro (Barkhamsted Alt), Dave Sinish (FRWA Rep), Tom Stanton (Colebrook Rep/ Vice Chair), Edna Travis (Colebrook Alt/Chair)

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Chair Travis at 7:03 p.m. Introductions were given for new committee member Cherie Robinson and guest speaker Margaret Miner.
- 2. Presentation – Margaret Miner, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut:** Miner spoke about statewide water resource issues including the proposed DEP streamflow regulations; and the proposed DEP revisions to CT Water Quality Standards.
- 3. Approval of Minutes of December 21, 2009 meeting:** Minutes were approved with the correction that Susan Peterson be listed as “DEP Rep” and not “DEP Alt”. (Also, it was noted that Yahoo e-mail is not accepting the minutes when they are sent out as an attachment.)
- 4. Treasurer’s Report:** Fielding, former Treasurer, reported that, as of the end of December 2009 and her tenure as treasurer, the balance was \$46,382.90. Bill Roberts, the new Treasurer, was not able to attend the meeting.
- 5. Old Business:**

Resource Stewardship

Greenwoods Anglers Trail – DEP was recently in Greenwoods performing wildlife habitat maintenance mowing. MDC, DEP and others involved in Anglers Trail project realized that this would be a good opportunity to cut trails. A plan was quickly put together, and DEP was very accommodating in performing additional mowing. Stanton requested that a letter of appreciation to DEP and others who made this happen be sent out. Don Mysling (DEP Inland Fisheries) has sent out a thank you e-mail to those involved. Lacy noted that FRCC intern (Tiffany) is willing to go back out and GPS the new trail. The possibility of new signage was mentioned, and it was noted that there is money in the budget for this.

Water Quality Monitoring – On-going work by FRWA underway – final report for 2009 in March.

Vernal Pools – FRWA has draft report out for Canton.

Invasive Plants Management – Betsy Corrigan has submitted a final report with many supporting aerial photos. FRCC has received a proposal from Corrigan for \$22,500 the next phase of the project. FRCC has a “placeholder” in the 2010 work plan budget for \$10,000. We may need to rethink the project and make an adjustment. Lacy reported that FRCC intern (Tiffany) is willing to continue to help with this project.

Corridor Land Cover Change Analysis – Fielding stated that Jeff Bolton (FRWA) is finishing this up.

Macro Invertebrates – Fielding stated that Alissa Phillips-Griggs (FRWA) is finishing this up.

Town Grants for Road Projects – Because FRCC did not receive any applications from communities on this, there is not a project line for it in the 2010 work plan. Communities can always apply for a grant if a project comes up.

Education and Outreach

Newsletter – FRCC plans to do Spring (due March 1st) and Fall issues. Jones described content planned for Spring issue.

Website – Nothing to report.

Kiosks – FRCC got two front kiosk board replacements which Roberts picked up. Jones will work on these. Mary Crombie is working on backsides. We have been having some on-going issues with the printing company (Merritt) which has done work for us previously, and we have discontinued doing business with them. Stanton suggested an alternative firm (McCoy) that we may wish to consider using.

Scholarships – Nothing to report.

Outreach to Town Boards – It is our goal to reach all towns this year.

River Etiquette Package – It is our goal to have packages ready for “opening day” of fishing season. We hope to have the water proof map to the printer by the middle of March.

Land Trust Outreach – Aimee Petras (FRWA) has been attending land trust meetings.

Video – Jones has developed an outline for a script which will be reviewed by the committee. The audience of the video will be the general public.

Executive

An application has been received from FRAA to do **Trout in the Classroom** in Avon for \$645.00. The Resource Stewardship Committee agreed that this would be a good project to fund. A question was raised as to whether grants should go only to member towns. During discussion it was noted that education grants can be more flexible and geared towards the watershed, in general. This project is about rearing fish which will be released into the Farmington River. Also, FRAA is a member of FRCC.

Management Plan Update – The Executive Committee needs to meet soon to plan for the retreat.

6. New Business/Other

Partnership Rivers - Stanton reported that he has been contacted by other partnership rivers with concerns about PWSR funding being frozen as part of the federal budget levels being frozen starting in 2011. The Committee discussed the implications of this for FRCC and the other rivers.

Draft 2010 Work Plan – Lacy distributed a handout of the draft work plan.

Mountain Road – There was discussion about the \$500,000 which the Town of Barkhamsted received for this project from Congress. USDA NRCS will be administering the funding. It appears that the funds will only cover a portion of what needs to be done. The Town will be hiring a consultant, and the most important needs will have to be prioritized.

Squire’s Tavern Office Space - Rent of FRCC offices in Squire’s Tavern has increased by \$100.00. This brings the rent to \$300.00/month.

Development of a DVD was not in the listed in the work plan and budget and needs to be included. Add a line item for it for \$1,000.00.

There was discussion about the committee being able to agree on a work plan with the understanding that the details of all of the projects have not been finalized.

Travis will send an e-mail to Fielding (who had to leave meeting early) regarding having final drafts of proposed projects ready for the next Resource Stewardship and Outreach & Education subcommittee meetings.

Lacy will send out an electronic version of Corrigan's Invasive Plant Management report for review, to help us decide the next steps for the project. Lacy noted that Corrigan put a lot of work into the project.

It was moved and approved that the \$337.50 over budget cost that Corrigan submitted be paid.

7. Town Reports

Canton: The new alternate representative is Cherie Robinson. Sinish brought up discussion of proposed Lower Farmington Wild & Scenic boundaries which had recently been voted on by the Town of Canton Board of Selectmen for their section of the river. The lower Farmington River boundaries are under discussion but have not yet been determined by the Lower Farmington Wild & Scenic Study Committee.

Murdock said she will be attending the Forest Stewardship Forum on Friday.

8. Next meeting dates: March 15, 2010. There will be an Executive Committee meeting preceding the full committee meeting at 6:00 pm. Lacy noted that the April and May meeting dates are likely to change due to her schedule.

Adjourned: 9:00 p.m.