



**FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern

P.O. Box 395

Pleasant Valley, CT 06063

860-738-2456

[www.farmingtonriver.org](http://www.farmingtonriver.org)

**Regular FRCC Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 21, 2022 7:00 pm  
(Held Via Zoom)**

**Attendance:** Barkhamsted (Mario Santoro, Representative, Committee Vice Chair and Roger Behrens, Alternate and Committee Chair), Hartland (Dan Bowler, Representative), Colebrook (Alison Jassen, Representative), Canton (Lans Perry, Representative, Committee Secretary, RS Subcomm. Chairman and Matt Vinick, Alternate and Committee Treasurer), FRWA (David Sinish, Representative, E&O Subcomm. Chairman and Laura Hart, Alternate), Metropolitan District Commission (Jim Randazzo, Representative and Lindsay Strole, Guest), National Park Service (Andrew Petitdemange, Representative), CT DEEP (Pete Aarrestad, Representative), Stephan Bastryzcki (River Steward).

**Absent:** Hartland (Bob Beeman, Alternate), New Hartford (Alison Murdock, Representative and Tony Mitchell, Alternate), Farmington River Anglers Association (Mark Swenson, Representative), National Park Service (Liz Lacy, Alternate, NPS staff), CT DEEP (Matt Goclowski, Alternate).

**1. Regular Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM** by Chairman Behrens

**2. Approval of Minutes:** Draft minutes of February 28, 2022 meeting were approved.

**3. Treasurer’s Report:** Farmington River Watershed Association (the fiscal agent of FRCC) staff prepared the Treasurer’s Report dated 3/14/2022, which was presented by Vinick. The beginning total balance was \$18,236.24 on 2/22/2022. The Pat Keener Scholarship Fund balance comprised \$194.64 of that total and was unchanged. \$1,543.99 was spent during the period. \$95.00 went to Roger Behrens as a reimbursement payment for PO Box fee. \$1,448.99 went to the Hartland Land Trust Stoeke Bosco survey Grant. On 3/9/22 \$41,750.00 (1/4 of FY22 Funds) was transferred from NPS Cooperative Agreement funds to Checking Account. The checking account ending book balance was \$57,747.61 and when added to the \$194.64 Pat Keener Fund yielded an ending total balance of \$57,942.25 on 3/14/22. The remaining FY2022 NPS CA budgeted account balance per report was \$123,750.00 on 3/14/2022. Consensually approved. Supplemental memo showing available uncommitted funds by budget account was discussed and found to be very helpful.

**4. Subcommittee reports:**

**-Executive:** Petitdemange said the FY23 budget and work plan funding may increase now an official budget has been actually adopted.

Bowler urged that FRCC adopt a formal orientation process and requisite materials be developed. Documenting critical wisdom should facilitate FRCC’s efforts to maintain its capabilities as veteran members leave and less experienced new members replace them.

Petitdemange discussed Workshop plans including a variety of possible topics that will be narrowed down before the event.

1. **Reflect on the last 5 years**
  - a. **What are the biggest accomplishments?**
  - b. **What made them possible?**
  
2. **What could be improved?**
  - a. **Sharing Responsibilities**
  - b. **Communication**
  - c. ...
  - d.
  
3. **High-level goals for the next 5 years**
  
4. **Other potential topics**
  - a. Training
  - b. Review of By-laws, roles, responsibilities
  - c. FRCC structure
    - i. Subcommittees (division of labor and resources among them)
    - ii. Working groups
    - iii. Program assistance
    - iv. Project review
  - d. Liaising with the W&S Lower Farmington River
  - e. The role of the Farmington River Watershed Association
  - f. Succession Planning
    - i. Onboarding and offboarding reps
    - ii. Recruitment of new members (voting and non-voting)
  - g. Review of the Comprehensive River Management Plan

**-Resource Stewardship:** Perry, Hart, and Petidemange summarized last RSS meeting. Refer to March RSSC meeting notes for more detail. Green Sno Pro training survey results soon. FRWA's Lily Frey area explained.

**-Education and Outreach:** Sinish led discussion of issues from Notes of 3/7 E+O Subcommittee meeting.

Motion by Sinish and Second by Perry unanimously passed to transfer \$4,000.00 to Stewards Program from Rec User Plan to be used for added compensation and mileage reimbursement of stewards or other steward program purposes as discussed by Sinish and Bastrzycki.

Vandalized monofilament collection boxes at Whittemore will be promptly repaired and made new.

Bastrzycki further discussed Steward applications and hiring plans.

A former steward now at Northwest Conservation District is working to organize a water quality improvement effort involving multiple entities and projects centered around the confluence of the Still and Mad Rivers. Ultimate goal includes helping essential local organizations and residents to make a clean rivers pledge and live up to that pledge.

**5. New Business/Other:** None

**6. Local Updates and Organizational Reports:**

- **Barkhamsted:** Nature Festival is 4-24-22.

- **Hartland:** Bowler is monitoring Hogback Road wetlands issue and will get details on latest HLT grant request. 4/3 Crystal Rapid Slalom Race.

- **Colebrook:** Progress continues on completing Colebrook Land Conservancy project on Sandy Brook.
- **DEEP:** Discussion of PA21-12 implementation and revisions to inland fishing regulations.
- **New Hartford:** Trails meeting 3/28 6:30PM Town Hall.
- **Canton:** Brief discussion of riparian land ownership and access issues near Hydro project and at Town Bridge.
- **MDC:** Sanitary facilities at Church Pool in process. Colebrook pond height at 716. Needs to be lower for flood season. Flow upped to 530CFS today. MDC's efforts to reassign its surplus West Branch supply (10 Billion Gallon of storage at Colebrook) and the obligations associated with it are ongoing. Discussed new trout fishing regulations and that certain MDC waters remain closed for safety and water purity regardless of fishing regulations.
- **FRWA:** Alisa will present to FALPS on 3-24. River Cleanup with FRAA, TU et al tentatively Earth Day Weekend 4-23-22. Sinish lauded local Simsbury river advocacy activities.
- **NPS:** Petitdemange mentioned planned emails about upcoming W+S events.
- **FRAA:** Absent
- **River Steward:** Bastrzycki seeks links to put on page from QR Code on kiosk panels. Old kiosks will be broken up and disposed of with assistance of host landowners.

## **7. Next Meeting Dates:**

**Sub-committee Education and Outreach - Monday April 4, 2022 at 6:30 PM Zoom**

**Sub-Committee Resource Stewardship – Tuesday April 5, 2022 at 6:30 PM Zoom**

**Full Committee: April 18, May 16, June 20.**

**8. Adjourn :** 8:50PM adjournment.