



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE

100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern

P.O. Box 395

Pleasant Valley, CT 06063

860-738-2456

farmingtonriver.org

Regular FRCC Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 15, 2022

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), New Hartford (Tony Mitchell, Alternate), Canton (Matt Vinick, Representative, Treasurer), FRWA (David Sinish, Representative, Committee Treasurer, E&O Subcomm. Chairman and Laura Hart, Alternate), CT DEEP (Pete Aarrestad, Representative), Farmington River Anglers Association (Mark Swenson, Representative), Metropolitan District Commission (Lindsay Strole, Alternate), National Parks Service (Andrew Petitdemange, Representative), River Steward (Stephan Bastrzycki), FVTU (Jim Buchok, Representative.)

Absent: New Hartford (Alison Murdock, Representative), National Park Service (Liz Lacy, Alternate, NPS staff), Metropolitan District Commission (Jim Randazzo) CT DEEP (Matt Goclowski, Alternate),

1. Regular Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Behrens

2. Approval of Minutes: Revisions were requested – change all references to MDC pool to 10 billion gallons.

3. Treasurer’s Report: Report was presented by Laura Hart. The beginning balance was \$22,065.39. Restricted Scholarship Funds were transferred in the amount of \$194.64 from FVWA. Money was transferred from the NPS Cooperative Agreement funds in the amount of \$82,500.00. Money paid out this month includes \$1,496.00 for FRCC hats (publications funds), \$3,900 was paid for Squires Tavern Rent, Betsy Corrigan was paid \$ 1,987.50 for invasives management, \$7,489.01 was paid as the final installment for the River Stewards. Additionally, \$159.89 was paid for operational expenses, including stamps and the domain fee, \$2901.00 was paid for Kiosk design and 10 panels, and \$350 was paid for a Grant to the Town of Barkhamsted for Nature Festival Day. Total spent for the month was \$18,283.40. Of the \$8000 allocated to Hartland Land Trust – only \$1200 will be spent before September, leaving \$6800 remaining, allowing this amount to be spent for other projects, such as the Kiosk project.

4. Subcommittee reports:

-Executive: The committee agreed to hold the open house this year. October 20, 2022 was agreed upon as the best date for the event.

-**Resource Stewardship:** The R/S subcommittee suggests that FRCC fund up to \$5000 for invasives management on the FALPS trail using a cut and paint method and keep FRCC informed about the vendor. There was consensus that the committee should wait for a more detailed proposal giving more a detailed explanation of the project.

The amphibian and reptile study has been completed.

-Education and Outreach: The quilt is currently in the Salisbury library and has been well-received. It will be moved to the Burlington library next. The kiosks will be ready in four to five weeks for installment. The low water flow in the River is a concern for fishermen and other recreation purposes.

5. New Business/Other: Chairman Behrens encouraged the group to attend the August 22nd Zoom meeting at 2:00 PM with Army Corps, MDC, DEEP and other stakeholders. Laura will send out the information and link before the meeting. Mark Swenson stated that the Anglers are very concerned about the low water flows in the Farmington. Alison Jassen and Mark Swenson noted that the Colebrook River Reservoir levels are higher than expected for a drought. Lindsay Stole indicated that there is significant capacity in Colebrook Reservoir to accommodate a major rain event or hurricane. Currently, Colebrook reservoir has a negative flow, meaning that more water is coming out of the reservoir than is flowing into it from tributaries.

MDC is not releasing water from the 10-billion-gallon reserve pool. MDC is releasing water at the required 50cfs rate from a separate 3.5-billion-gallon allotment.

6. Local Updates and Organizational Reports:

- **Barkhamsted** – Property is for sale at 57 River Road. This property includes Pleasant Valley Drive-in. The town of Barkhamsted has expressed interest in the land for possible municipal expansion.

- **Canton:** The work on the Collinsville electrical dam has been completed. Matt asked whether more than one alternate can be appointed by the town. The consensus was that more than one person from the town can attend but each town gets only one vote.

- **Colebrook** – No report

- **Hartland:** - No report

- **New Hartford:** No report

- **MDC:** The Zoom meeting on August 22nd may provide more information about the water stored in Colebrook River Reservoir.

- **FRWA:** No report

- **NPS:** No report

- **DEEP:** DEEP is releasing water from their pool of water in Colebrook River Reservoir to protect the fishery operation. A press release was issued to this effect.

- **FRAA:** The members are interested in volunteering at the next River Clean-up on September 24th. This date is also National Public Land Day.

- **River Steward:** The Kiosk panels are under construction. Bill Winchester will finish the panel back stops in mid=September.

7. Next Meeting Dates:

Sub-committee Education and Outreach – Monday, September 12, 2022 at 6:30 PM Zoom (moved due to September 5th Labor Day holiday)

Sub-Committee Resource Stewardship – Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 6:30 PM Zoom (moved due to September 5th Labor Day holiday)

Full Committee: September 19, 2022

8. Adjourn : 8:40 pm