



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
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DRAFT Regular FRCC Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 19, 2022
Via Zoom

Attendance: Barkhamsted (Mario Santoro, Representative, Committee Vice Chair), Hartland (Dan Bowler, Representative), Colebrook (Alison Jassen, Representative. Secretary and R/S subcommittee chair), Canton (Matt Vinick, Representative, Treasurer), FRWA (David Sinish, Representative, Committee Treasurer, E&O subcommittee chairman and Laura Hart, Alternate), CT DEEP (Matt Goclowski, Alternate) Farmington River Anglers Association (Mark Swenson, Representative), Metropolitan District Commission (Jim Randazzo and Lindsay Strole, Alternate), National Parks Service (Andrew Petitdemange, Representative), River Steward (Stephan Bastrzycki), and FVTU (Jim Buchok, Representative)

Absent: Barkhamsted (Roger Behrens, Alternate and Committee Chair), New Hartford (Alison Murdock, Representative and Tony Mitchell, Alternate), CT DEEP (Pete Aarrestad, Representative), National Park Service (Liz Lacy, Alternate, NPS staff)

1. Regular Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM by Vice Chairman Santoro.

2. Approval of Minutes: Minutes were approved.

3. Treasurer’s Report: Report was presented by Matt Vinick. The beginning balance was \$86,281.99. Restricted Scholarship Funds were transferred in the amount of \$194.64 from FVWA. Money paid out this month includes \$182 for Web Hosting fee for the FR Steward site.; \$7,750 was paid to William Winchester for construction and installation of Kiosks; Goulet printing was paid \$95 for printing the annual report; \$7,004.51 was paid for the 3rd installment for the River Steward; the Hartland Land Trust was paid 1,221.70 for the Bosco B grant; FRWA was paid \$971.00 for culvert studies and \$42.99T for farmingtonriverquilt.org network and 369.00 was paid to Goulet Printing for letterhead and envelopes. Total spent for the month was \$19,459.68. Treasure Matt Vinick stated that the committee is on track to spend the remainder of the budgeted money by September 30th and if there is an unforeseen delay in any project or billing completion, an extension could be requested.

4. Subcommittee reports:

-Executive: There was a lengthy discussion about the river flow rates and impact on the river. There was a consensus that there is a need for a fact sheet explaining what factors are involved in water release at Colebrook River and Hogsback (Goodwin) Dam. Mark Swenson agree to coordinate the effort and Matt Vinick will help. They will reach out others as needed. The goal is to correct misinformation and misperceptions about low water levels in the Farmington River.

-Resource Stewardship: Andrew PetitdeMange compiled action items from the April 2022 workshop and presented to the R/S subcommittee. Many items focused on invasive plant management. The R/S subcommittee recommends that the grant application form be amended to ask specifically if invasive plant removal or management will be addressed and if so, what methods will be used to remove them. A brief statement regarding best practices using paint and cut as well as replanting with native species will be included.

FRWA requested \$2,943 to add summer chloride monitoring to existing quality monitoring. This summer the chloride study was completed, and it showed an increase in chloride in the Jim Brook region and when combined with previous studies, there is a slow but steady increase in chloride levels at multiple sites. Alison Jassen motioned to approve the FRWA request for additional money to study chloride levels in the summer and to include this with regular water quality testing and David Sinish seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

-Education and Outreach: The committee is holding the open house on October 20, 2022, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Andrew will contact The Traveling Trout musical band. There will be old photos of the river from New Hartford and Barkhamsted Historical Societies and local artists are being contacted about displaying artwork. Laura will distribute a sign-up sheet using signupgenius.com so members can sign up to bring food, drinks, and other supplies.

Bill Winchester is planning to get kiosk installed by September 30th.

5. New Business/Other: None

6. Local Updates and Organizational Reports:

- **Barkhamsted** – East River Road will be closed to repair drainage from September 26 – 27. An application has been made to Inland Wetlands to construct affordable housing on Old New Hartford Road.

- **Canton:** Would-be buyer of Collins property has backed out.

- **Colebrook** – No report

- **Hartland:** - No report

- **New Hartford:** No report

- **MDC:** No new report.

- **DEEP:** DEEP was able to collect brown trout brood stock survivor strain on August 31 for fisheries division. The brood stock collection was successful. At upper Collinsville Dam (not Wild and Scenic portion) a fishway has been constructed and there will be an agency inspection in late October. Staff from DEEP fish and wildlife and NOAA will all be looking at it and it should be operational by next spring. It will have to be video monitored for three years.

- **NPS:** New Cooperative Agreement has been signed. The new amount is \$210,000 per year beginning October 1. Last year the amount was \$165,000. The new agreement represents a significant increase.

- **FRWA:** The 35th River Clean Up day is September 24th. It is also Connecticut River Conservancy – Source to Sea Clean-up and it is also, National Public Lands Day. Angler’s group is helping in the Canton site. The Film Festival will be at the Canton Town Hall on November 18th. More information will be provided as we get closer to the date.

- **FRAA:** The members are interested in volunteering at the next River Clean-up but due to change in leadership.

- **FVTU:** Will contact members to publicize river clean-up. FVTU helped fund replacement hobs and also added five new sites.

- **River Steward:** The Kiosk panels are under construction. Bill Winchester put storage shelves into shed at Squires Tavern for storage for steward program. MDC will help with kiosk installation on their property.

Kiosks will have a QR code on them and will direct users to riversteward.org/directory information on water flows, leave no trace, and other pertinent information.

7. Next Meeting Dates:

Sub-committee Education and Outreach – Monday, Oct 3, 2022, at 6:30 via Zoom

Sub-Committee Resource Stewardship – Tuesday, Oct 4, 2022, at 6:30 PM Zoom

Clean-up on September 24th

Full Committee: Open House October 20, 2022, November 15th, 2022

8. Adjourn: 8:34