



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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FRCC Resource Stewardship subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 6, 2022
Via Zoom

Attendance: Barkhamsted (Roger Behrens, Alternate and Committee Chair), Colebrook (Alison Jassen, Representative, R/S subcommittee chair), New Hartford (Alison Murdock), FRWA (Aimee Petras, Alternate), CT DEEP (Susan Peterson, Alternate), CT DEEP (Matt Goclowski, Alternate), FVTU (Jim Buchok, Representative)

Absent: FRWA (Laura Hart, Alternate), National Parks Service (Andrew Petitdemange, Representative)

Meeting Called to Order at: 6:37

Invasive Plants Management: Work Dec. 1 update: Andrew sent out prior to the meeting. December 1 workday was a small but effective group. December 3rd date was cancelled due to rain. Jim B. said that many Trout Unlimited fishermen signed up though so if it is rescheduled for a weekend there may be more volunteers.

Water Quality Monitoring/Stream Crossing Surveys: Aimee and Laura are in the process of recruiting interns. One intern will return. Interviews a currently being conducted. Laura and Aimee are currently working with NCCC Natural Resources Program coordinator, Tara Holmberg to identify students who might be interested and there maybe a student from CCSU. There was a student from the Yale Conservation Scholars program last summer and Aimee and Laura are waiting to hear to see if there is interest again this summer.

Chloride monitoring will start soon (Salt Watch program.)

Jim mentioned FRWA monitoring of Hurricane Brook and Morgan Brook. Sparse samples. Morgan Brook good but less on Hurricane Brook, perhaps related to drought and low flows?

Land Protection: Hartland Land Trust – Bosco B property – Issue and granted extension re: funding.

RCP Land Trust:

In the past fiscal year, Aimee did investigation and meeting with Area Land trust to discuss the potential for land trust Regional Conservation Partnership. Some smaller land trusts interested particularly about collaboration with the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Project. Some larger land trusts not interested. Aimee spoke w/ Connor Hogan at McClean Game. refuge who suggested

that perhaps they should just go ahead and act like are an RCP and host collaborative events. Planning to host event w/ McClean to discuss woolly adelgid w/ Carole Cheah (CAES) and do training on how to measure hemlock stands on property, etc.

There are also a many land trusts that need assistance with stewardship. Three land trusts in the Lower Farmington expressed interest and may be interested in enough to contribute funds and share staff resources to assist w/ stewardship. Aimee suggested that perhaps FRCC would be willing to contribute funds also, as there are also needs in the Upper watershed? Aimee suggested a quarterly project to bring land trusts together. Since Aimee promoted to FRWA Executive Director, she has had to step back from this. However, she has created a job description to potentially hire someone who would do a variety of things, such as: walking boundaries, trail management. Roger also feels that land trusts could use pro bono legal help b/c of expense. Assistance doing paperwork to acquire property, etc. also needed

Aimee said she plans to post position announcement. She already knows of a few people who may be potentially interested. If gets enough financial support, Aimee could add person to FRWA staff.

Alison J asked about potential amount of funding seeking. Aimee is waiting to get commitments from land trusts, etc. first. Perhaps try out on a half year basis to see how it goes?

There were also merger discussions with Connecticut Land Conservation Council (Amy Paterson) and several land trusts very interested and supportive of collaborative services.

Susan Peterson suggested that we wait to ask Andrew (or Laura) what we have in FRCC budget that we could potentially pledge as match if get land trusts to commit to moving forward.

Roger feels collaboration among land trusts is important.

RFP Scientific Study Archive: Andrew sent out the revised RFP without specifics on hours and payment. Alison M. moved to approve RFP and Alison J. seconded. In discussion Susan Peterson suggested that the scope of the project be expanded to include the Farmington River watershed or Farmington River corridor since many projects such as water quality monitoring and land protection extend to river watersheds and tributaries.

Aimee was unaware of the RFP project and was concerned that it would involve time and resources from FRWA. Alison J. stated that the intent was to hire someone who was self-directed and would make data more readily available for future analysis and would ultimately help with grants and projects. Aimee will talk with Laura and Andrew about it.

The motion carried unanimously with the modification that Andrew broaden the proposal to Watershed or Corridor as proposed by Susan.

Others: Continuing/new

Instream Flows / MDC – next step public hearing at DPH 1/5/23

recording from FRWA and RA's meeting: <https://frwa.org/newsroom-blog/colebrook-qa-session/>

There is considerable interest in Colebrook on this topic. Alison J. has been asked to speak to the Colebrook Conservation Commission. They are concerned that if DPH changes the classification of the water in Colebrook River Lake from reserve Drinking Water that the watershed land about Colebrook River Lake will be sold.

A hearing will be held on January 5, 2023, and, if necessary, January 6, 2023. The hearing will be held at the Department of Public Health, 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, in the third floor Hearing Room, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

FALPS Lost & Found Trail

Laura sent update from Ralph Scarpino (FALPS) about the Lost and Found Trail. FALPS will be having field trip on Dec. 17 at 10:00am at end of School Street to discuss site. Roger is going to try to attend as will Jim.

Susan Peterson asked about trail where invasive mgt also proposed. Roger said that it was the same site. CT DEEP wants to see invasives controlled before work done on site. Alison M mentioned that FRCC drafted and sent a letter about endorsement conditions (and concerns about use of herbicides).

Roger noted that FALPS is still in planning stages and is on State land.

FRCC December Potluck at Squire's Tavern

Alison J asked Roger about December FRCC meeting and proposed holiday potluck. Roger said just sharing message from E&O subcommittee at their request. Holiday potlucks were FRCC tradition prior to COVID.

RBV Stream Surveys and Culverts

Jim said going to be meeting w/ Brian Eltz (CT DEEP Fisheries) to discuss culverts and streams w/ Brook Trout and surveys. Jim invited Matt G. to go, and Matt said he is interested.

Jeff Yates (TU) involved w/ infrastructure funding. Jim hoping to invite FRCC to that meeting as well.

TU National has applied for (and secured?) \$30-\$40 million in infrastructure funding. Date to discuss has yet to be set.

Aimee shared guidance from Jeff:



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Coordinating-on-Fe

Meeting adjourned: 8:16.