



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, November 21, 2022 7PM Via Zoom

Attendance: Barkhamsted (Roger Behrens, Chair and Mario Santoro, Representative, Vice Chair), Canton (Matt Vinick, Representative, Treasurer), Colebrook (Alison Jassen, Representative, Secretary and R/S subcommittee chair), Hartland (Dan Bowler, Representative), New Hartford (Alison Murdock, Representative), Farmington River Watershed Association FRWA (David Sinish, Representative, E&O subcommittee chairman and Laura Hart, Alternate), CT DEEP (Pete Aarrestad, Representative), Farmington River Anglers Association FRAA (Torrey Collins, Representative), Metropolitan District Commission (Jim Randazzo, Representative), National Parks Service (Andrew Petitdemange, Representative), Farmington Valley Trout Unlimited FVTU (Jim Buchok, Representative and Tom Carpenter, Alternate), and River Steward (Stephan Bastrzycki).

Absent: New Hartford (Tony Mitchell, Alternate), CT DEEP (Matt Goclowski, Alternate), National Park Service (Liz Lacy, Alternate, NPS staff), MDC (Lindsay Strole, Alternate)

1. **Regular Meeting** called to order at 7:05pm by Behrens
2. **Approval of Minutes:** 9/19/22 minutes approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report:**

Vinick reported we are on track to spend down FY22 funds soon with final invoices coming in, and may even go into FY23 funds for some expenses. Starting balance from 9/13/22 at \$66,822.31 expenses \$59,584.15.

Remaining balance \$6,788.16. Expenses included Grants to WLT \$3,000; Town of Barkhamsted \$19,504.54; FRWA Chloride monitoring and RCP \$1,076 and \$2,555; Kiosk expenses of \$8,758.46; FRWA fiscal agent fee \$3,750; FRWA project assistance \$4,050. FRWA Water Quality Monitoring and Cherry Brook study \$9,639.82; River Steward \$6,599.64; BLT for Open House \$200; and office expenses \$450.69.

4. **Subcommittee reports:**

- **Executive:**

Open House - Behrens reported the Open House was a success. Art show comes down November 30th 9 to 12; Behrens, Bowler, Sinish, and Hart to help, Hart will send email to artists.

Introductions - Torrey Collins as the new FRAA representative from New Hartford and Tom Carpenter as the alternate representative from FVTU from Simsbury.

- **Resource Stewardship:**

Jassen presented on the RFP that came about from the April retreat, proposing \$6000 to collect data and overlay it. Goal to have a database or archive with all of the reports that currently exist plus data regarding the Farmington River to see what we are missing. Contract by the end of the winter for planning spring and summer projects. Discussion included need to define the scope, searchable database, how much historical data do we want, suggested no price to be listed on the RFP. Petitdemange will share the draft of the RFP. Discussion to be added to December meeting. Jassen added that R/S looked at the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid proposal, no vote as would like more information on results first. Bowler will reach out to Dr. Carole Cheah and ask for a report/invite to a meeting. Hart mentioned in January, as a result of the RCP, there will be a meeting with local land trusts and Carole to speak at McLean's regarding the issue of the HWA. Aarrestad sink DEEP link re: HWA:

<https://portal.ct.gov/CAES/Publications/Publications/Hemlock-Woolly-Adelgid>

- **Education and Outreach:**

Sinish reported on success of the open house, that 3 inflatable kayaks for the river's steward team for next season have been purchased, 3 kiosks on MDC land recently installed with help of MDC, Bastrzycki, Bowler, and others, the back panels are being reviewed by the E and O and will be worked on at the next meeting. Jean Miller compiled much of the history on the back panels of the kiosks previously. Drafts to be shared will full committee. Issue to the

old canoe at Squires to be moved. Wild & Scenic Film Festival Grant request of \$1200. Sinish moved that \$1200 be granted to FRWA for the purpose of the Wild & Scenic Film Festival, Bowler seconded, passed unanimously.

5. New Business/Other:

Farmington Valley Trout Unlimited update, NAACC stream crossing training completed for Buchok, and Carpenter is shadowing until certified. FVTU will conduct assessments, weather allowing, and working with FRWA to upload that data. Sent invasive plant removal work days to FVTU membership. Working on RBV on some streams in the upper river including Morgan Brook in Barkhamsted, Mountain Brook in Barkhamsted/Hartland, Beaver Brook in Barkhamsted. Buchok reported \$40 million dollar infrastructure grant funds through TU, and 1 mil grants - suggested a potential feasibility study in the School Street location options for Wild & Scenic as this is a policy decision. FRCC to consider this the State purchased the land. FALPS and the historical society will be doing a historic trail and invasive plant removals on that location. Grant funds could also be used for a package of culvert replacement to help the towns with that cost - where to start for best conservation impact, look at trout habitat - brook trout streams would be ideal there are many hotspots in the Farmington River. TU to continue conversations with Brian Eltz and Matt Divine from DEEP Fisheries, and FRWA on this regard.

FALPS update there was a tribute to Ralph Scarpino who has retired.

Hartland Land Trust asked about the remaining grant - confirmed it is OK to use the next year's fiscal funds for the remaining grant funds.

Hart to compile a directory for the new members of FRCC send it to all

6. Local Updates and Organizational Reports:

a. Barkhamsted

b. Canton

Boat launch project by the wastewater treatment plant is moving forward in this in front of inland wetlands at the moment. The levels of water are higher in the Collinsville area due to the installation of the crest gates for the hydro electric facility.

c. Colebrook

d. Hartland

Kiosks went up on Friday thank you to MDC.

e. New Hartford

Murdock attended to the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) VIRTUAL Symposium: Strategies for Managing Invasive Plants: Assess, Remove, Replace & Restore, and is digesting that information.

f. MDC

Randazzo update that there are no plans to sell the lands MDC is proposing to give up rights to the 10 billion gallons of storage space in Colebrook Reservoir, however they still have 3.5 BG storage in Colebrook, grandfathered in along with the 3 BG of storage at Goodwin, hence they still want to protect the land. MDC will never need that 10 billion gallons water storage for future drinking supply there is the department of public health public hearing January 5th <https://www.savethesound.org/colebrook-reservoir-water-company-lands/> MDC is at 85% of capacity at its drinking water reservoirs so the water is looking better but conditions are still dry Otis has been releasing which has increased the flows in the Farmington river along with releases from Lake McDonough.

g. FRWA

Successful W&S Film Festival, met with new National Resource Bureau Chief, hosting river flows Q&A for FRWA members 11/30 6pm.

h. NPS

Partnership Wild & Scenic gathering in December that Petitdemange, Hart and Petras from FRWA will attend, along with all of the PWSR groups. Start thinking about next year's budgets planning. NPS financial assistance team has changed. Planning early in the year re-orientation to define responsibilities of FRCC representatives and to orient new FRCC reps.

i. DEEP

New Bureau Chief of Natural Resources, Andy Fisk, previous Director of CRC has River knowledge and will be a good partner.

Letter of recognition to honor Mark Swanson's efforts in FRCC to be created soon.

j. FRAA

FRAA happy to be on board, concerned about water releases in the future.

k. FVTU

See New Business.

l. River Steward

Recent hike in PSF, kiosk installs went well.

7. Next Meeting Dates:

Full committee: December 19, January 23, February 27- **Subcommittees:** Mon. Dec 5 – Education & Outreach 6:30 PM by Zoom meeting. Tues. Dec 6 – Resource Stewardship 6:30 PM by Zoom meeting

8. Adjourn : 8:38pm