



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE

100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern

P.O. Box 395

Pleasant Valley, CT 06063

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DRAFT Regular FRCC Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 23, 2023

Zoom

Attendance: Barkhamsted (Roger Behrens, Alternate and Committee Chair and Mario Santoro, Representative, Committee Vice Chair), Hartland (Dan Bowler, Representative), Colebrook (Alison Jassen, Representative, Secretary and R/S Subcommittee Chair), Canton (Matt Vinick, Representative and Committee Treasurer), New Hartford (Alison Murdock, Representative), FRWA (David Sinish, Representative, E&O Subcomm. Chairman and Laura Hart, Alternate), CT DEEP (Matt Gocłowski, Alternate), Metropolitan District Commission (Jim Randazzo – Representative), National Park Service (Andrew Petitdemange, Representative) River Steward (Stephan Bastryzcki), FRAA (Torrey Collins, Representative), FVTU, (Jim Buchok, representative and Tom Carpenter, alternate)

Guest: Dr. Carole Cheah

Absent: Pete Aarrestad, CT DEEP, Tony Mitchell, New Hartford alternate

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

Presentation: Dr. Carole Cheah, Research Entomologist with the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, presented her research on the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) and its impact on Connecticut and specifically on the Farmington River. She presented evidence from research that began in 1995 using the predator lady beetles, *Sasajiscymnus tsuga*. Hemlocks in along the Farmington River in treated areas have survived and despite the 2022 drought have continued to produce new growth. Dr. Cheah is hoping to continue to treat hemlocks along the Farmington River and also this year she hopes to treat land along major tributaries where major HWA infestations have been detected.

2. Approval of Minutes: Draft minutes for December meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Treasurer’s Report: Report presented by Matt Vinick. Treasurer Vinick presented a new format to display expenditures making it easier to see where each expense fit into the E&O and R/S subcommittee budgets. Payments were made for expenses related to the Open House - \$170.00 was paid to Goulet Printery, \$47.29 was paid to Laura Hart for reimbursement for Open House supplies and \$200 was paid to Barkhamsted Land Trust on Travelin’ Trout’s behalf as the donation for their performance. The following expenses were also paid – \$73.96 to Network Solutions – for the quilt website domain and \$159.42 was paid to Zoom for the FRCC account. A \$1200 grant was awarded (paid) to the FRWA for the Wild & Scenic Film Festival; \$50 was paid for a CIPWG symposium fee; \$4245 was paid for Water Quality Monitoring 1 of 4 payments; \$4750 was paid for fiscal agent, payment 1 of 4; \$4050 was paid for Program Assistance Payment 1 of 4; \$74.00 was paid for PO Box 395 as part of office expenses. \$25 was paid for Stop Payment fee for uncashed check #1485. Payment was made for River Steward Stephan Bastryzcki 10/1/22-12/31 for \$5,750.00.

4. Subcommittee reports:

-Executive: Election of officers was held. Roger Behrens agreed to be the Chairman for the next several months and after that Dan Bowler may agree to resume the Chairmanship. Mario Santoro agreed to continue as Vice

Chair, Andrew Petitdemange will take on the role of secretary and Matt Vinick will continue as Treasurer. Alison Jassen and David Sinish will continue as subcommittee Chairs. Roger Behrens motioned to approve the slate and Dan Bowler seconded. The slate was approved unanimously.

-Resource Stewardship: The RFP to gather resources and create a searchable database has been posted and circulated to multiple academic institutions.

Grant for Treatment of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) Matt Vinick motioned to approve the grant request submitted by Dr. Carole Cheah for \$12,150 to continue funding for treatment Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in the Upper Farmington and its tributaries with *Sasajiscymnus tsuga* in 2023. David Sinish seconded and the grant application was unanimously approved.

-Education and Outreach: E&O will not need as much in the kiosks category after this summer (in 2022 there was \$15,000). Those funds could go towards grants to projects such as the HWA in R/S. Whiting Mills was contacted to display the Quilt. Stephan is beginning hiring phase for 2023 summer season and there may be two stewards returning. AmeriCorps is concerned about the distance from USJ – will need to follow-up.

5. New Business/Other: Nothing is reported

6. Local Updates and Organizational Reports:

- **Barkhamsted** – An application has been made to P&Z to convert a home to a private school on Old North Road.
- **Hartland:** - No report
- **New Hartford:** No report
- **Canton:** The boat launch project has been delayed.
- **Colebrook:** No report
- **River Steward:** Previously discussed in E&O
- **MDC:** River flows are higher now. The declaratory ruling to dismiss allow MDC to abandon the 10.5 billion gallons of water in Colebrook River Reservoir was denied by DPH. MDC will fill out a permit application to abandon the reserve drinking water in Colebrook River Reservoir and submit it to DPH.
- **FRWA:** None
- **NPS:** No report
- **DEEP:** No report
- **FRAA:** .No report
- **FVTU:** Members want to participate in invasive plant removal on March 11 and would like to coordinate with FRWA and FRCC. A bill has been initiated by area representatives to create a study if MDC decides to sell the watershed land around Colebrook River Reservoir. It has been referred to the Environmental Committee. The link to the bill is found at:

https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=HB05214&which_year=2023

7. Next Meeting Dates:

Full committee: February 27, March 20, April 17

- Subcommittees:
- Education & Outreach Mon. Feb 6, 6:30 PM by Zoom meeting
- Resource Stewardship Tues. Feb 7, 6:30 PM by Zoom meeting

8. Adjourn : 9:06 pm