



Farmington River Coordinating Committee

Regular FRCC Monthly Meeting

Monday, April 17, 2023

7:00 PM

At Squire's Tavern, Peoples State Forest

Attendees: Mario Santoro, Torrey Collins, Roger Behrens, Jim Buchok, Stephan Bastrzycki, Matt Vinick, Tom Carpenter, Dan Bowler, Pete Aarrestad, Jackie Dias, Andrew Petitdemange, Laura Hart

AGENDA

1. Call to Order at 7:03PM – Roger Behrens, Chair
2. Approval of Minutes of March 20, 2023 meeting.
3. Treasurer's Report – Prepared by FRWA, Reported on by Matt Vinick, Treasurer
4. Subcommittee Reports:
Executive – Roger Behrens, Chair
 - Please continue to share the summary of FRCC with your town for your town's annual report.

Resource Stewardship – Alison Jassen, Subcommittee Chair

- Invasive plant planning and looking for volunteers, dates forthcoming.
- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid plan going forward but later in the season due to significant die off resulting from deep freeze in early February.
 - Committee would like to know about beetle survival.
- Science Study database will be supported/developed with/by UConn
- Cherry Brook Tree cutting a result of sight line work by DOT for safety near elementary school. May still impact the water temp, stormwater runoff, and potential of erosion as stumps decay. Looking for ways to mitigate with buffer planting.
- PFAS release due to fire retardant foam behind the elementary school in Canton that leached into the river (2014 and 2019). Town has hired environmental engineer to study consequences of PFAS migration into groundwater.
- Winchester reported a lot of learning and money savings due to the Green Snow Pro Training.

Education and Outreach – David Sinish, Subcommittee Chair

- Kiosk panel revisions are underway, draft content will be sent to Mary Crombie for design at the end of April
- River Stewards: two will return from last year, third just accepted job, waiting on fourth. Deadline has been extended. Please share the announcement:
<https://www.farmingtonriversteward.org/get-involved/jobs>

- Mission, Vision, and “Elevator Pitch” in development and will be shared again with the committee.
- Satan’s Kingdom “first responder numbering” in the gorge. Seeking alternatives since the huge numbers detract from the experience on the river.

5. New Business/Other

- Pete A. has a contact to discuss the legacy landfills along the river. He will share with Alison Jassen.
- CT DEEP Fisheries Update re: fish passage
 - DEEP will no longer operate the fish ladder at the Rainbow Dam owned by Stanley Black & Decker. Decision made because the fish species are not benefiting by being passed upstream. This dam does not have a FERC license. DEEP wants to keep downstream fish out of the turbines but that program is not yet in place.
 - No strategic plan yet but DEEP is interested in dam removal and fish passage and has communicated with Stanley B&D. This is complicated by diverging CT DEEP interests of renewable energy production and environmental and river protection/restoration.
 - Salmon are provided a surface pathway downstream even without the fishway being operated. Trying to create better eel passage downstream (at night).
 - DEEP wants to raise awareness of the environmental consequences of the dam but is asking that FRCC or other orgs hold off on weighing in on this process.
- Encouraging attendance at the May 20, Meeting Canton Hydro public meeting regarding the Upper and Lower Collinsville Dams.
- Mono-filament tubes are filling up with trash.
- June 15 or 16 for FRCC & DEEP paddle on the river. Try to join if you can and invite legislators. Stay tuned for more details.

6. Local Updates/Organization Reports

- Barkhamsted – April 30th Earth Day Festival at Matthies Grove
- Canton – UConn Extension faulty member may become Alternate Rep.
- Colebrook - absent
- Hartland – commitment from 2nd selectmen to attend Green Snow Pro, Punch Brook Slalom Race on April 22 & 23
- New Hartford - absent
- MDC – absent (technical difficulty with zoom)
- CT DEEP – no news
- NPS – Funding request has been submitted to the NPS Financial Assistance officer and is in process, Speaker Series coming up in May, email to follow, please join!
- FRWA – Supporting the challenge to Rainbow Dam, wrapping up winter chloride monitoring, and water quality monitoring is ramping up.
- FRAA – River Clean-up Sat 4/22 9AM – 1PM at Lower Ovation Parking Lot. Prizes!
- FVTU – Great turn out at invasive plant control event (April 15) at FRWA Frey property. Tree planting along North Meadow at Matthies Grove, date TBD. About to begin culvert survey support for FRWA.
- River Steward – Kiosks and new stewards coming on board. Earth Day with a booth at April 30th Earth Day.
 - Banners and table cloths will be purchased for Rivers Stewards and FRCC

7. Next meeting dates –
 - a. Full committee:
8. May 15 (virtual), June 19 (in-person), July 17 (virtual)
 - a. Subcommittees:
9. Mon. May 1 – Education & Outreach 6:30 PM by Zoom meeting
10. Tues. May 2 – Resource Stewardship 6:30 PM by Zoom meeting
11. Upcoming Events –
 - a. April 22 – FRAA River Cleanup 9am-1pm at Hurley Business Park
 - b. April 30 – Barkhamsted Earth Day Nature Festival 12:30-5pm
 - c. May 20 – Canton Hydro public opening 1-3:30pm
 - d. Planning FRCC and LFSWS combined gathering in the spring
12. Adjourn 8:46 PM