



Farmington River Coordinating Committee

Regular FRCC Monthly Meeting
Monday May 15, 2023
7:00 PM (Zoom Call)

Attendees: Mario Santoro, Torrey Collins, Alison Jassen, Jim Buchok, Stephan Bastrzycki, Matt Vinick, Dan Bowler, Pete Arrestad, Lindsay Birchall, Jim Randazzo, Andrew Petitdemange, Laura Hart

AGENDA

1. Call to Order at 7:03PM – Mario Santoro, Vice Chair
2. Approval of Minutes of April meeting.
3. Treasurer’s Report – Prepared by FRWA, Reported on by Matt Vinick, Treasurer

4. Subcommittee Reports:

Executive

- Nothing to report

Resource Stewardship – Alison Jassen, Subcommittee Chair

- Updates on invasive plant control programs held in April conducted by FRWA and FVTU.
- USDA site visit reported a 90% reduction in invasive plant species on the FRWA Frya Property since acquisition.
- Water quality monitoring has begun and will now extend into the headwaters due to a Mass Department of Environmental Protection grant.
- West River Rd. Bank Stabilization project has been delayed due to challenges investigating rare and endangered mussel species. The project is still slated to be permitted this year and completed by next spring when the grant expires.
- FVTU tree planting is on hold until a suitable and willing location can be found. Earlier locations considered have fallen through.
- Extended debate on spending \$500 to sponsor the Northeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation annual conference (July 2023, Wesleyan University). Benefits of sponsorship include greater awareness of the Wild & Scenic Rivers of Connecticut, an opportunity for an FRCC rep to learn more about the topic/research, supporting student scholarship, and attracting more research along the Farmington that will support protection of the river.
 - Dan Bowler moved to spend \$500 to sponsor the NEPARC 2023 Annual Meeting in conjunction with a matching amount from the Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic which will allow for a table display at the meeting. Alison Jassen seconds. Passed unanimously.

Education and Outreach – Stephan Bastrzycki (sitting in for David Sinish)

- Kiosk edits are complete and content is in the hands of graphic designed Mary Crombie.

- The River Steward program has hired 8 Seasonal River Stewards for the summer. Two of whom are returning from last year.
 - Training will be conducted on Sat. June 3 with assistance from interpretive ranger Scott Gausen from Springfield Armory National Historic Site.
5. New Business/Other
 - a. FRCC Paddle with CT DEEP leadership and elected officials will be held June 15 (rain date June 16). CT DEEP will provide canoes. FRCC reps are encouraged to attend.
 - i. Details of start time and location are to be determined.
 - ii. Concern regarding flows coming out of the dam expressed. It was noted that if attendees experienced low flows it might spark action.
 - b. Enthusiasm expressed about the Channel 61 feature on Upcountry Sportfishing.
 6. Local Updates/Organization Reports
 - a. Barkhamsted – no news
 - b. Canton – no news
 - c. Colebrook - no news
 - d. Hartland – no news.
 - e. New Hartford - absent
 - f. MDC – West Branch and Colebrook reservoirs are (essentially) full. Flows of the last 30 days are due to large rain events. Wide variety of flows this last month. Army Corps released when levels overcame their boat launch. More water coming out of Colebrook than coming in which is typical this time of year.
 - g. CT DEEP – Farmington River Power Company have not been operating one of their turbines for more than a year. Just repaired now. With turbine down, they had been releasing water which, if the fish ladder was operable, would have diverted fish in the wrong direction. CT DEEP is investigating the situation.
 - h. NPS – no news
 - i. FRWA – no news
 - j. FRAA – new shirts! Club is planning on stocking trout.
 - k. FVTU – Finishing up trout in the classroom releases for the school year. June, 2 – 4 NE Trout Unlimited meeting focusing on theme of Volunteerism.
 - l. River Steward – 8 Stewards will be hired and starting on June 3 with an all day training. FRCC members welcome. Programs for the summer: June 30 & July 14 4- 6pm “Paddle with the Stewards”, July 9 Family Fun Day 1 – 3pm
 7. Next meeting dates –
 - a. Full committee:
 - i. June 26 (in-person, potluck picnic at Hogback), July 17 (virtual)
 - b. Subcommittees:
 - i. Mon. June 5 – Education & Outreach 6:30 PM by Zoom meeting
 - ii. Tues. June 6 – Resource Stewardship 6:30 PM by Zoom meeting
 8. Upcoming Events –
 - a. May 20 – Canton Hydro public opening 1-3:30pm
 - b. Planning FRCC and LFSWS combined gathering in late summer or fall
 9. Adjourn 8:13 PM