



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE

100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern

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Education and Outreach sub-committee

July 10, 2023 Minutes

Via Zoom

Called to order at 6:33

In attendance: Dan Bowler (Hartland), Roger Behrens (Barkhamsted), Mario Santoro (Barkhamsted), Andrew Petitdemange (NPS) Stephan Bastryzcki (River Steward), Matt Vinick (Canton)

Quilt: No news. Scheduled for Harford.

Kiosks: Stephan offered to meet with Mary to support her work on the panels. Roger has asked permission from photographer Ken Fader to use his photo w/ overlaid graphic of Native American person on soapstone. Awaiting response.

Need to add photos for Whittemore panel. Actual photos better than just place holders.

Stephan checked with Jim Warner re: installation at Satan’s Kingdom take out. Agreed that best day would be on high flow day when tubers not using river otherwise may need tubing to end for the season.

Stewards: Upper Greenwoods work with Betsy Corrigan. Paddle w/ stewards late June was success. Family fun day was rained out. Paddle w/ stewards 4- 6pm Fri July 14.

MDC and Reservoir Releases: Army Corp doing flood control. Who should take charge of releases and how can FRCC be involved. Our concerns:

- There needs to be a recreation, environmental, and flood control components to the flow and releases. Can’t be just for flood control.
- Flows are erratic and poorly timed, withheld for too long and then released too much all at once. Releases should be more even across the year and still accommodates flood control.
 - Releases are interfering with Farmington River ORVs
- FRCC needs to coordinate a meeting to share ideas and concerns with Army Corps.

Our questions:

- What is the policy shift needed to meet all needs?
 - Incorporate other needs outside of flood control.
- Is it possible to get Army Corp to change policy regarding releases?

- What is involved in changing policy?
- Who and how do we engage the Army Corp? Who can we speak with?
- Can Army Corps join FRCC?
- What is within bounds for FRCC regarding advocacy for river flow?
- How do we engage the business community on the river to call for change?

Next Steps:

1. Understand history of involvement and engagement with Army Corp at Colebrook.
 - a. Talk with Liz Lacy re: Army Corps engagement in the past
2. Develop an argument or pitch to Army Corps
3. Outline the process for Army Corp to join the FRCC
 - a. Find point of contact
 - b. Ask for a meeting
 - c. Invite them to join FRCC
4. Understand what elected officials are doing to address issues of flow?
5. Convene special forum between Army Corp, MDC, DEEP, local experts, for the education of FRCC and to start conversation around flow and policy that controls it.

Subcommittee Leadership: There is a need to appoint a new subcommittee chair. We will bring this up at the Full Meeting at the end of July.

Ideas for Tributes to David Sinish: 1) Quote from David re: W&S designation.

Adjourned 7:37pm.
