



# Farmington River Coordinating Committee

Regular FRCC Monthly Meeting  
Monday July 17, 2023  
7:00 PM (Zoom Call)

*Attendees: Roger Behrens, Mario Santoro, Torrey Collins, Alison Jassen, Jim Buchok, Tom Carpenter, Stephan Bastrzycki, Dan Bowler, Pete Arrestad, Jim Randazzo, Andrew Petitdemange, Bill Coleman*

## AGENDA

1. Call to Order at 7:03PM – Roger Behrens, Chair
2. Approval of Minutes of June meeting.
3. Treasurer’s Report – Prepared by FRWA, reported by Andrew Petitdemange
4. Subcommittee Reports:  
**Executive** - NPF Funding Opportunity for up to \$50k for Wild & Scenic Rivers. The committee is interested in pursuing grant.  
Ideas for projects 1) Facilitators to bring ACOE, MDC, FRCC, and other interests to discuss. 2) A new in-stream flow study to account for climate change, 10 billion gallons of holding in Colebrook, and new and higher demands on the river. 3)  
**Resource Stewardship – Alison Jassen, Subcommittee Chair**
  - Land protection grant from Winchester Land Trust (Cannavo Spring watershed above freshwater spring) is asking for \$10k.
    - o Susan Peterson, of CT DEEP, did a study of the property and feels it was an important piece of property to preserve
    - o Alison J. moves and Dan B. seconds motion to fund up to \$10k for land preservation. Passes unanimously.
  - Water levels at Colebrook River Reservoir. Parking lot and reservoir is flooded. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) stopped releases out of fear of flooding Unionville.
    - o Releases feel extreme, either too little or too much.
    - o Sequestering of water by MDC is not helping.
    - o FRCC wants to bring stakeholders together to understand how flow can be managed differently.
    - o FRCC and MDC staff recommend that ACOE and NPS as federal entities need to work towards different flow regulations and release schedule.
      - Using the river ORVs to influence how flow is managed.
      - ACOE Knightville Dam in MA recreational releases sets precedent for releases based on specific requests.
      - Can we get to an interim agreement that better manages releases before MDC and ACOE resolve their legal dispute regarding pools of water held in Colebrook River Reservoir.

- Northwest Land Trust has announced land protection conservation easement surrounding Goodwin Dam Reservoir
- Jim Randazzo explained some of the history of water holdings in Colebrook and Goodwin Reservoirs. It was explained that the 10 billion gallons held for drinking water is no longer necessary for consumption. They have filed to abandon but determination has not been made. ACOE will not release MDC from their contract.
  - Consultant might not help
  - Things have changed since the 1988 in-stream flow study is outdated or flawed. It could be redone.
  - MDC feels there are three options:
    - MDC forced to keep it
    - Relinquishes to other CT state agency
    - ACOE takes it and releases it all to have that space for flood storage.
  - Natural in-flows in summer months cannot support all the demands/uses. Those river-users cannot happen without all the storage in the reservoirs.
    - New study of in-stream flow and use of water resources.
- Bank stabilization project on West River Rd. in Barkhamsted is on a very tight timeline to complete project by end of June 2024.

#### **Education and Outreach – Stephan Bastrzycki**

- Kiosks
  - Panels are being developed and we are still in need of photos for the Whittemore site. Photos of “Roberts Pines”, camping at Whittemore Grove, historic photos of the CCC bridge from the vantage point of West River Rd, and we would consider others that depict a time prior to 1900 would be great.
  - The panel at the Satan’s Kingdom tubing pullout is proving challenging and may be delayed until after tubing season.
- The subcommittee is in need of a new chair following the passing of David Sinish. Please consider taking on the role.
- Please help us develop ideas for how FRCC might memorialize David Sinish.

#### 5. New Business/Other

#### 6. Local Updates/Organization Reports

- a. Barkhamsted – Don Stein will not be seeking 9<sup>th</sup> term as selectman.
- b. Canton – portage and safety buoys upstream of upper Collinsville Dam have washed over dam. They need to be repositioned.
- c. Colebrook - Concerns about property tax loss if/when MDC land is held in conservation restriction. Chris Johnstone will not be running for re-election.
- d. Hartland – no news
- e. New Hartford - absent
- f. MDC – All reservoirs are full. Hogback and Lake McDonough closed to recreation due to highwater levels. Hogback is overflowing into the spillway.
- g. CT DEEP – Instantaneous water temp sensor may be installed at Still River water gage
- h. NPS – Please let us know if there are any emergency repairs due to flooding.
- i. FRWA – absent
- j. FRAA – no news

- k. FVTU – culvert surveys are underway. September picnic meeting at Matthies Grove, all are invited.
  - l. River Steward – Bad weather has impacted July 4<sup>th</sup> parade, family fun day cancelled, paddle night was postponed. Doing more invasive plant work with Betsy Corrigan at lower Greenwoods. Stewards supporting Barkhamsted Rec Camp on Wednesday with Jr. River Ranger books. Engagement of river users is limited but still doing river counts, and other engagement when weather allows.
7. Next meeting dates –
- a. Full committee:
    - i. August 21, September 18, October 16
  - b. Subcommittees:
    - i. Monday August 7 on Zoom
    - ii. Tues. August 1 on Zoom
8. Upcoming Events –
- a.
9. Adjourn at 8:42PM