



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
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Minutes
Resource Stewardship subcommittee
Tuesday, August 1, 2023, 6:30 PM
Zoom

Attendance: Colebrook (Alison Jassen, Representative, R/S Subcommittee Chair), New Hartford (Alison Murdock, Representative), DEEP (Matt Goclowski, Alternate and Susan Peterson, Alternate), FRWA (Laura Hart, Alternate), National Park Service (Andrew Petitdemange, Representative),

Call to Order 6:32 pm

1) Invasive Plant Management

No update. Andrew will contact Betsy Corrigan to see if further actions are planned.

2) Water Quality Monitoring

Water quality monitoring is proceeding. Recent spikes in bacteria levels have been detected directly after heavy rains. **FRWA requests funding in the amount of \$2451.00** to collect additional data concerning chloride contamination to determine the conditions of Jim Brook in Canton. The Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA) monitored chloride in the Upper Farmington River Watershed from 2004-2019 at bacteria sites by taking water samples and having them analyzed at the Metropolitan District Commission laboratory (MDC). Since the chloride monitoring program began in fall 2021, sites have shifted towards locations with potential to have higher chloride levels. Data collected since then has revealed that Jim Brook in Canton has the potential to have elevated chloride levels year-round, and on two occasions it has increased to toxic conditions. FRWA plans to deploy in-situ conductivity loggers in locations which have the potential to have chloride values increase to toxic concentrations. Due to the strong correlation between chloride and conductivity, conductivity will increase in response to the rise in chloride levels. Jim Brook is the biggest area of concern. CT DEEP has expressed interest in the results of the study. DEEP has received a complaint about decline in fishing at Secret Lake since Shoppes at Farmington Valley were constructed. It could be due to increased chloride. Matt G. moved to approve the request and Susan P. seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3) Land Protection Grants

No land protection grants have been received. The FRWA grant for water testing for conductivity testing is discussed above.

4) Culverts

Interns have been trained in culvert assessment and are focusing on the priority brook trout areas. In the next year FRWA plans to apply for a grant that will provide money for design assistance for towns working on culvert replacement. The Nature Conservancy will be able to assist FRWA in applying for

NOAA Fish Passage Program Grants and TU can help with conceptual designs for culvert replacements. FRWA is involved in the River Restoration Network – a conservation group involving a number of organizations (Save the Sound officially launched the Long Island Sound River Restoration Network (RRN), with American Rivers, Housatonic Valley Association, Farmington River Watershed Association, Connecticut River Conservancy, and Trout Unlimited, and The Nature Conservatory CT Chapter has joined). The Farmington River has been identified as a priority watershed. More information will be available as the grant application is developed in 2024 or 2025.

Others: Continuing/New

West River Rd. Bank Stabilization – Barkhamsted:

Nothing new.

Army Corp meeting:

Andrew reported that there is a meeting scheduled at the end of August with the Army Corp of Engineers to learn more about their policies and to establish communication. Jamie Fosberg, Liz Lacy and Andrew will be at the meeting representing NPS.

River Flow:

The water levels in the river have fluctuated to a great extent this year.

There was not much tubing activity in the river early in the summer due to low water levels and later the water levels were too high making it unsafe.

FRWA will need to move funds around to make sure there are adequate funds to pay authorized expenditures.

Don Stein First Selectman from Barkhamsted and Chris Johnstone, First Selectman from Colebrook are not running for reelection.

A Memorial Gathering for David Sinish is planned for October 21 in Peoples State Forest.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:54 pm