



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
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**Education and Outreach sub-committee**  
December 4, 2023 Minutes  
Via Zoom

*Called to order at 6:34pm*

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

**Quilt:** Quilt plans for Hartland Town Hall.

**Kiosks:** Kiosk – new Collinsville picked up on Friday by Town of Canton at DPW where the boat launch is located. Planned for less than 2 weeks to finish boat launch and put in kiosk before frost. Additional Town feedback from Sarah Faulkner for back panel. Mary’s goal is to by spring or summer next year have all the back panels done.

**Annual Report:** Laura to draft over the winter.

**Junior River Ranger:** Booklets update - next order by spring – time for printing is needed. NPS printing for Junior Ranger in the national budget – review by park service at Harpers Ferry. Standard unigrid map and info pamphlet could be done for FRCC, but this is a bigger project. Andrew to get the details of what can get printed by NPS.

Stephan, Andrew, and Laura meeting 12/11 to review and begin revising.

**Canoe:** Stored at Squires. Winter project to review repairs needed for the canoe, potential to add a stencil, cleanup and use for events. Looking into decals/stencils/etc

**River Flow:** Matt updated on last River Flow meeting. Goal is to divide tasks between subcommittees:

First task for E&O – simple 1 page doc to describe the issue, use Matt’s 6 point notes and Laura’s 1 page doc to create an informative document. Will review draft on Google Docs by January meeting.

Will need to discuss with R/S – connect what each subcommittee is working on.

6 points from Matt’s note describe the problem of flows on wildlife, nature, recreation. FRCC wants flows that support best outcomes for aquatic life and recreation. Mario noted we should be upfront and say what we want to accomplish – to change the 2 parties willingly or use an outside force to get USACE and MDC to change - what are we trying to do with this educational document?

FRCC can say benefiting or harming the river based on the ORVs.

What would be best for the river? Frame this educational document – who is the audience, is there an action or not? Phased approached, first educational, then something else. It is ok to state what the best conditions are or

how to change current flow management, and what our end goal is. Tie it back to the management plan and W&S. Next step: review and draft.

Aiming at general public, or decision makers, etc. Be honest and open if we are asking the public to take an action. Have MDC and USACE review the draft before it is out publically.

Roger noted, the river was under good mgmt. until 2019. Just need a way to have a temporary truce to continue business as usual until the contract between USACE and MDC is resolved. Is there a way to have the river managed as before until the current situation can be resolved. How do we encourage this?

We need a mgmt. solution for now. Also depends on who may get that control of the 10BG of storage in the future? USACE – flood control, DEEP – fisheries and/or recreation etc. USACE would be interested in an entity taking over the 10BG of water storage and the releases opportunity, per prior conservations.

Could FRCC play a role in convincing MDC to go back to prior flow releases, if shown managing the flows now will not jeopardize them trying to get out of their costly contract with USACE, plus the worry of an aging dam that may need additional large costs that currently MDC would have to share 35% of.

MOU plan as next step for short-term mgmt.? Tim Anthony retiring – wealth of knowledge.

Show draft doc to mdc and USACE before Jan meeting.

**Annual town reports** – reminder to get FRCC listed in each towns annual reports from Dan.

Kiosk at Mill St on Hartland Land Trust property was knocked over.

*Adjourned 7:44pm ----*