



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
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Minutes
Resource Stewardship subcommittee
Tuesday, January 2, 2024, 6:30 PM
Zoom

Attendance: Colebrook (Alison Jassen, Representative, R/S Subcommittee Chair), New Hartford (Alison Murdock, Representative), DEEP (Matt Goclowski, Representative), FRWA (Laura Hart, Representative), Trout Unlimited (Jim Buchok, Representative), Barkhamsted (Roger Behrens, Alternate and Committee Chair)

Call to Order 6:36 pm

1) Invasive Plant Management

Betsy Corrigan has notified Laura that due to a conflict of interest she is not available to work for FRCC. The committee needs to think about how it wants to proceed with invasive management and education going forward.

2) Water Quality Monitoring

Water quality reports are being compiled and written and will be available in February. The presentation will be presenting this past year’s data in context with past years and compare with flooding and drought.

3) Land Protection Grants

No Land Protection grants have been received.

4) Culverts

FRWA has requested Hogback has requested that the town of Hartland be awarded \$11,000 for conceptual design and flood study for a culvert that has been designated as a severe barrier on Hogsback Rd. TU estimates \$8500 for conceptual level designs and survey, \$2500 for a flood study. There was discussion about getting the town to commit to following through on the project after the studies are completed and working with FRWA to apply for additional grants if more funding is needed. **A motion was made to approve the \$11,000 request contingent upon Hartland pledging to follow through on remediation of the culvert at this location. The motion passed unanimously.**

Another culvert has been designated as a moderate barrier on Rt 20 near the Hogback culvert. Matt Goclowski stated that DEEP has interest in installing flexi-baffles in the culverts to slow down current flow and make it easier for movement through the culverts. At this point there is no additional funding request.

Others: Continuing/New

Farmington River Flow subgroup update: Representatives from ACOE will be present at the January meeting to answer questions about management of the Colebrook River dam. FRCC members developed a list of questions at the December 18th meeting and this list was discussed as well as a list of questions Jim Buchok provided.

The committee agreed that asking the Army Corps how Colebrook Dam is monitored and how communication with MDC is handled is a good idea. Alison J. will put the questions developed at the December 18th meeting and the questions Jim provided together in one document and send it to Laura so she can distribute to the E&O subcommittee for discussion.

Laura filled the group in on Aimee Petras' meeting with ACOE. Aimee learned that there is a process that MDC has been advised to follow – filing for Abandonment of the Water – from DPH (which has been completed) and then work to terminate the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA contract) with ACOE. Senators Blumenthal and Murphy can help with this. This is the process that MDC is following. Once MDC is released from their legal obligations by the Army Corps they are willing to collaborate to release water into the Farmington River.

West River Road Project: Don Stein has plans to meet with the new first selectman in Barkhamsted to update him on the Bank Stabilization Project and timeline.

FALPS Update on 100th anniversary celebration of People's State Forest: FALPS received a 35,000 grant to cover the cost of making the film on People's and the River. Roger asked if the proposal for tree planting has been received from FALPS yet. Laura stated that she has not received a proposal from FALPS. Roger will check into this and hopefully it will be on the agenda for the February R/S subcommittee proposal.

R/S Meeting time: Laura mentioned that Susan Peterson and Andrew have trouble making a 6:30 meeting. Laura said that an earlier meeting time would allow Susan to attend more meetings. After discussion, members indicated that they could make a 4:30 pm start time. The next R/S subcommittee meeting will be **on February 6, 2024, at 4:30 pm.**

Meeting Adjourned: 7:45 pm