



## Farmington River Coordinating Committee

### FRCC Monthly Meeting

7:00 PM, January 22, 2024

### Zoom Meeting

*Attendees: Alison Jassen, Stephan Bastrzycki, Matt Gocłowski, Mario Santoro, Dan Bowler, Tom Stanton, Pete Aarrestad, Bill Coleman, Torrey Collins, Tom Carpenter, Matt Vinick, Roger Behrens, Jim Buchok, Andrew Petitdemange, Matthew Coleman, John Haluchak, Lori Ferand, Alicea Charamut, Aimee Petras, James Jylkka, Brad Bremer, Jim Randazzo, Kirt Mayland.*

*Called to order at 7:01PM*

- Welcome and Introductions
  - Roger offers an opening statement about mission of FRCC
  - Matthew Coleman offers Army Corps of Engineers “Colebrook Dam 101” slide show. (Attached)
- Q&A with guests from the Army Corps of Engineers at Colebrook Lake Reservoir
  - Conversation recorded and posted to FRCC website.
    - Major points:
      - MDC and USACOE are in daily communication via the Reservoir Control Center to make decisions in concert.
      - USACOE is constantly monitoring USGS gauges on the river as well as the potential for incoming precipitation from the National Weather Service.
      - USACOE has limited ability or authority to proactively release water ahead of storms because pools below 708ft mark in reservoir are under control of other agencies.
      - Releases after rain events are determined entirely on down stream stretches of the West Branch Farmington to pass flows without flooding towns.
        - The max they are capable of releasing is 3000 cubic feet per second (cfs). USACOE has never reached that maximum.
        - Releases are typically ramped by 300cfs per hour.
      - USACOE purpose is to attenuate the natural peak of what would otherwise be a flow that would result in flooding.

- MDC's Hydroelectric Facility at Goodwin Dam is not a FERC licensed facility. This facility has a FERC Exemption From Licensing.
- Slide show and other resources will be shared with all attendees. (Attached)

*Commence regular monthly meeting 8:31PM*

- Approval of December Minutes, add Derek Kirkpatrick

#### **TREASURERS REPORT**

- No major news. Funds stable.

#### ***Unplanned conversation Re: River Flow***

*Alicea Charamut, Rivers Alliance CT* – Dispute is about leverage for MDC not the money they have to pay ACOE. Fear that taxpayer money would be used to get MDC out of contract and thinks it will take an act of congress to get MDC out of the agreement.

*Jim Randazzo, MDC* – Why should MDC's water customers pay for water storage space in Colebrook that can never be used for public drinking supply based on public opposition and CT DEEP Diversion Regulations. Clarification: The 10 Billion Gallons (BG) is water storage space, not actual water; it is the right to store 10 BG of water. Hypothetically, if some natural disaster damaged the Colebrook Dam, and the needed repairs cost \$40 million, MDC's water customers would be on the hook for 35 percent of that.

*Alicea Charamut, Rivers Alliance CT* – Just wanted to know that Rivers Alliance thinks MDC methods are the problem not the reasons why they needed to get out

*James Jykkla, ACOE* – In not calling for releases, are there any estimates for how much money MDC is not earning from hydro power production.

*Jim Randazzo, MDC* – Hydro revenue has lately taken a down turn in a sense because MDC is sometimes limited in its ability to generate hydropower when the Corps is conducting flood control operations given all the precipitation we've been getting lately. Basically missed opportunity. No cost estimate. MDC's position is that in releasing its rights to the 10 BG storage space in Colebrook it will still run hydro the best it can at Goodwin using the reserve of 3 BG behind Goodwin and 3.5 BG behind Colebrook as available during dry years

#### **EXECUTIVE SUBCOMITTEE**

- Time to develop a new budget for next year. Please review current FY23 budget/workplan and think of new ideas for next year.

- Officers terms will be extended to September at which point we will nominate new officers. This is an opportune time to update bylaws.
- Perhaps we should have a review of the Management Plan and consider an update and re-issue

### **RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP**

- Betsy Corrigan will no longer be working for FRCC due to a conflict of interest.
- Hartland requests \$11k for engineering design work on Hogback Rd culvert.
  - Alison J makes Motion to approve \$11k for Hartland to hire Trout Unlimited to develop conceptual design for replacement culvert at Hogback Rd that will meet stream crossing standards. Dan seconds. Passes.
- FALPS will be requesting funds to plant trees in commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniv of Peoples State Forest.

### **EDUCATION & OUTREACH**

- Working hard on all projects (Junior Ranger Books, Kiosks, Flow Information one-page flier)

### **New Business**

- No new business

### **Update**

Hartland – Laura put quilts up in town hall!

MDC – Replacing sluice gates in the gate house and water will be bypasses around normal paths. This will take place over the next 12 months. New gates being fabricated.

TU – Interested in getting info on how the original in stream flow study was developed. To the recollection of those present, MDC paid for most of the study with support from NPS and CT DEEP. Committee seeking confirmation of this info.

River Stewards – Nepaug State Forest trails meeting. Jim Warner and Kim Bradley of CT DEEP have requested FRCC send a representative to sit on the advisory board that will shape implementation of the new trails plan. Please consider volunteering.

Adjourn: 9:09 PM