



## Farmington River Coordinating Committee

**FRCC Monthly Meeting**

**7:00 PM, April 15, 2024**

**Hybrid Meeting hosted at Squires Tavern and FRWA Zoom**

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

*Called to order at 7:06 PM*

### **March Minutes TREASURERS REPORT**

- Large sums unobligated in Grants. Expenses 3/18 to 4/10/24 FALPs David Leff Trail kiosk grant expenses from fiscal year 2022 to 2023 funds total of \$1,165.57. \$85 to reimburse Roger for attending the CLCC conference. \$4,500 to FRWA for Project Assistance; \$4,880 to FRWA for Water Quality Monitoring program; \$4,772.50 indirect to FRWA for fiscal agent admin fee.

### **EXECUTIVE SUBCOMITTEE**

- Approval of Workplan and Budget: Funding has been approved by congress for the budget year that starts in October 2024.
- Footbridge Proposal in Barkhamsted : The town is interested in rebuilding the CCC footbridge over the river. First Selectmen asked for a letter of support for a grant. The town has several locations proposed for the bridge that would connect two state forests via a footbridge. They've had engineers conduct a feasibility study. Would require more parking.
  - They are not asking for funding support.
- The committee believes that we need more information and is requesting more details from the town. Specifically asking if the funding is for a study or construction? Is CT DEEP Involved? Are they scoping ADA compliance.
- Tour of Colebrook Dam on April 24 – all FRCC is welcome. Please let Laura know if interested.

### **RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP**

- Scoping new companies for invasive species treatments. Alternatives will be discussed in May.
- Fungal Diversity study report was delivered. Successfully cataloged over 600 species.
- Request from FRWA for Conductivity Loggers: A. Jassen moves to \$3196 for conductivity meters. J. Buchok seconds. Passes unanimously. Laura abstains.

- Data Loggers capture data continuously, measure temperature and conductivity. Will be placed on the Mad and Still Rivers as well as Beaver Brook to understand fluctuations in readings.
- NAACC Database. Seeking financial support from organizations using the database. A. Jassen moves to spend \$1250 to fund NAACC database. R. Behrens seconds. This is a valuable resource for culvert replacement to improve connectivity of streams. Passes unanimously.
- River Clean-up with FALPS April 20.
- TU and FALPS tree planting on April 27
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## EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- Barkhamsted School River Day Funding Requested \$10k for the River Day program expanded to Hartland, Colebrook, and
  - FRCC cannot pay for the food requested. They also received \$2000 from Eversource
  - Roger moves \$5k to fund. Laura seconds. Passes unanimously
- CCK has requested \$695. A Jassen moves, Dan B. seconds. Passes unanimously. Laura abstains.
- Kiosks still in development with Mary Crombie
  - Canton kiosk is near final. Waiting for response from town.

## New Business

- Annual reports are now available for distribution to towns.
- Great dedication at the David Leff Trail on April 9.
- Winchester interested in applying for funding to help build kiosk on the Still River.
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## Updates

- Barkhamsted – Earth Day Festival on Sunday 4/28
- Canton – May 11<sup>th</sup> David Sinish boat launch dedication
- Colebrook – Colebrook Historical Society hosting Ann Hall to speak about Colebrook River before dam construction. Sunday April 21 at 3pm at Colebrook Town Hall
- MDC – Reservoirs are full. Boat launch at Lake McDonough open. Boat Launch at Hogback closed. Discussion between MDC and ACOE re: interim flow regime are ongoing.
  - ACOE reviewed flow numbers proposed by MDC and found them acceptable. Approx. 300-350 cfs during the height of summer. ACOE chief of operations sent response to MDC on April 15. Aiming to be implemented in May. Jim Randazzo will look into when info will be public.
- CTDEEP – Year long angler survey is underway. No closed season for fishing for trout due to legislation passed in 2021. Approx 50k trout stocked annually in the Farmington.
- NPS – Challenge Cost Share Grant of \$21k awarded to Trout Unlimited for citizen science mapping project and planting of 500 trees at FRWA Frye Property.
- FRWA – American Rivers will be announcing the Farmington is one of Americas Most Endangered Rivers. Despite the pristine headwaters, Rainbow Reservoir's flow and bacteria

issues threaten what would otherwise be one of the best quality rivers in the country for migratory fish. This will be a call to action to Stanley Black & Decker and hopefully bring them to the table to make changes at Rainbow Dam. The dam is 100 years old and exempt from FERC licensing. This is a result of the hardwork of River Network, CT River Conservancy, Save the Sound, and FRWA. Featured video will be released April 22. And then The Nature Conservancy is hosting World Fish Migration Day film near Rainbow Reservoir on May 21, to draw more attention.

- TU – Trout in the Classroom is busy.
- River Stewards – 6 stewards hired so far (4 returning). May hire a 7<sup>th</sup>.

Next meeting May 20th

*Adjourn: 8:45 PM*