



## Farmington River Coordinating Committee

**FRCC Monthly Meeting**

**7:00 PM, May 20, 2024**

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

*Attendees: Alison Jassen, Erik Langraff, Roger Behrens, Dan Bowler, Bill Coleman, Tom Carpenter, Jim Buchok, Andrew Petitdemange, Pete Aarrestad, Brad Bremer, Jim Randazzo, Mario Santoro, Alison Murdock*

*Called to order at 7:01 PM*

Welcome Erik Landgraf, president of FALPS. Erik expressed gratitude to FRCC for help funding projects over the years. School street trail, meadow restoration, tree planting at Matthies Grove. Encourages FRCC to join FALPS for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

- Pedestrian bridge: looking at bonds to fund engineering, considering location alternatives. The town has pushed this bridge idea to the “back burner”

### **March Minutes and TREASURERS REPORT**

- Minutes approved.
- Treasurers Report

Expenses 4/11 to 5/15/24 - Spent \$100 on printing annual reports. \$6,250 for River Steward contract. \$3,196 to FRWA for conductivity logger grant. \$7,414.95 grant to FALPS for tree planting project I PSF. \$450 for Barkhamsted Earth Day Nature Festival. \$1,250 to UMass Amherst for NAACC database membership for culvert assessments.

- \$40k unobligated. We need creative ideas or river projects.
  - Data loggers. Initial design for culverts. Helping land trusts with purchase.
- Approved

### **EXECUTIVE SUBCOMITTEE**

- No update

### **RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP**

- No money currently allocated for invasive species management.
  - Laura talked with Jerry Milne and Jim Warner. No sites yet.

- Not using herbicide restricts the projects we can engage.
- Barberry at High Bank near Matthies Grove. (stone rip rap bank)
  - High Bank has been cleared of invasives.
  - Barberry is good for manual removal.
- Knotweed starting upstream at the base of the dam and working downstream to more dense patches.
- Concerns still persist around the use of herbicide but perhaps it should be considered in limited applications.
- HWA Tsuga Beetles have arrived and will release on Friday 9/24 9am in Matthies Grove.
- Hogback Rd culvert
  - Still trying to get home owner permission to get on land.
  - Letters drafted for town.
  - Looking at enforcement via US Army Corp
- CT House Bill 5355 “An Act Concerning the Water Resources of the Upper Farmington River Valley” has passed. 1) Tasks CTDEEP to act as consult on study of flow, and 2) CTDEEP will have greater influence on release of water (Co-manage).
- West River Rd. Bank Stabilization Project has been suspended indefinitely.

## **EDUCATION & OUTREACH**

- Kiosk panels (Satans Kingdom Put-In & Take-Out, Collinsville Boat Launch, Whittemore, and others) are being completed by Mary.
- Jr Ranger Book first draft revision is under review
- Collinsville Canoe & Kayak Paddling Film Fest will take place June 21
- Paddling series hosted by Lower Farmington Wild & Scenic
- FRCC & CTDEEP Paddle from Whittemore to Church Pool, will happen on either June 21, or June 28. CTDEEP will provide 6 canoes. FRCC reps encouraged to participate.
- 

## **New Business**

- Interim Flow Releases:
  - Based on agreement between MDC and US Army Corp, Colebrook will be drawn down consistently at approx. 150cfs now thru the end of 2024
  - Presently, Army Corp doing approx. 200cfs to release flood storage. More than is typical for this time of year.
- Collinsville Dam Removal update:
  - Public meeting in the fall
  - Demolition target date is June 2025.
  - PrincetonHydro is studying sediment “sludge” upstream of dam.
    - Bureau of Water Protection and Land Re-use is managing dam removal.
- 

## **Updates**

- **Barkhamsted:** Inland wetland approved site construction of Tractor Supply. Longtime former selectman Don Stein's wife has past away.
- **Canton:** New initiative to rebuild the Collinsville Axe Factory
- **Colebrook:** Colebrook River Historical exhibit (documenting up to flood of 1938) up at Historic Society building June 2 thru the summer.
- **Hartland:** Dan knows the excavator operator that worked on the Hog Back Rd
- **New Hartford:** No Update.
- **MDC:** Lake McDonough open for boating and fishing. No Swimming this year.
- **CT DEEP:** No Updates
- **FRWA:** Summer bacteria monitoring started today with 19 FRCC sites.DO, Turbidity, conductivity, chloride, temp.
- **TU:** Planted 40 trees and shrubs at Matthies Grove on April 27th.
- **FRAA:** No Update
- **NPS:** (1) SAVE THE DATE: NPS PWSR Gathering at Jay Peak, VT Monday October 21 thru Wednesday October 23, 2024. (2) Exploring what support NPS Water Resources Division might provide. (3) Andrew has accepted a new job, will split time between Wild & Scenic and NPS Community Assistance Program (RTCA). He will no longer attend subcommittee meetings, will continue attending full committee meeting, and is still available to support FRCC projects as needed.

Next meeting June 17<sup>th</sup>.

*Adjourn: 8:28 PM*