



## Farmington River Coordinating Committee

### FRCC Monthly Meeting

7:00 PM, August 19, 2024

#### Hybrid meeting hosted at Squires Tavern and FRWA Zoom

*Attendees: Laura Hart (FRWA rep), Roger Behrens (Barkhamsted alt), Alison Jassen (Colebrook rep), Dan Bowler (Hartland rep), Tom Carpenter (FVTU alt), Mario Santoro (Barkhamsted rep), Pete Aarrestad (DEEP rep), Torrey Collins (FRAA rep), Jim Buchok (FVTU rep), Matt Vinick (Canton rep), Jim Randazzo (MDC rep)*

*Call to order at 7:04 PM*

#### JULY MINUTES

- Minutes – approved without discussion

#### TREASURERS REPORT

- Focus on the unobligated amount, \$41,807.26
  - The cost of the 2 additional kiosks is not included in the budget because we do not know the cost to build them
- Expenses July 13 to August 6: \$500 to Rivers Alliance; \$1,500 to New Hartford Land Trust; \$2,581.95 fy 23 obligated funds paid out to New Hartford Land Trust (both Oliva Property grants); \$10,667.19 to the Assistance River Stewards for July work plus mileage.
- We are in year 2 of the budget
- We should be ok with rolling over the money to the next fiscal year as long as we have plans for the unobligated funds
- Other Ideas
  - One item to consider is making larger donations to organizations like the land trusts and Rivers Alliance
  - Non-profits don't need to request the funds
  - We will provide to the non-profits who receive an FRCC donation guidance on how they should spend the funds
- **Action:** the subcommittees will add the topic of donations to the agenda for their next meeting. The subcommittees will report out their suggestions for donations in the September general meeting

## EXECUTIVE SUBCOMMITTEE

- **Partnership with the Wild & Scenic Conference**
  - Dates: October 21 - October 23 at the Jay Peak Resort in Vermont
  - Great time to share ideas and resources with other similar orgs and the NPS
  - FRCC supports mileage and hotels
    - Food is the responsibility of the attendee
  - Laura is going to attend to represent the Upper Farmington River. Aimee Petras will attend and represent the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook

## RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

- **Invasive Removal**
  - Invasive removal will be along West River Road
  - Bittersweet treatment only. There is a plan to move onto other species in the future, but the quote does not include any other species
  - Cut and paint method
  - For the really large plants, this method is very successful. Small vines need to be retreated in the future
  - Three contractors were contacted. Jerry Milne identified them
    - One declined to provide a quote
    - One has not received the appropriate certification
    - All Habitat Services provided a quote
  - All Habitat Services quote was \$5,854
    - Because it is lower than \$10,000, additional bids are not required
    - All Habitat Services has previously worked in Peoples State Forrest with Jerry Milne
    - Based on this amount, we can do a bigger section than anticipated
    - Sub-committee is recommending we do the entire project this fall
  - The current unobligated funds in the Invasive Species Management line item: \$5,374
    - \$480 can be moved from the Land Protection line item to cover the delta between the bid and the Invasive Species Management unobligated budget
  - Vote for approval to move forward with the All-Habitat Services bid
    - Motion – Allison
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matt
    - Unanimously approved
- **Water Quality Monitoring**
  - Morgan Brook
    - Observed temperatures are high (approximately 24C/76F)
    - It does get high temps but this is the highest seen in a while

- Morgan Brook is a class 3 Wild Trout Management Area (WTMA). DEEP is recommending it be changed to a class 1 WTMA. If approved, the change will be effective January 1, 2025 [Wild Trout Management Areas \(ct.gov\)](http://www.ct.gov/deep/wild-trout-management-areas)
  - Pete will contact Mike Beauchene to see if there is historical temperature data for Morgan Brook (FRWA has 20 years of data) or known changes in the area that would effect temps
  - There was a discussion on what can be done if the increase in temperatures remain higher than the historical temperatures
    - Land use decisions are local and can impact the quality of the habitat
    - The monitoring of this brook will continue if we are unable to identify a condition which is increasing the temperature. Beaver dams are an example of a condition which increase the temperature
  
- **Hartland Culvert – Hogback Road**
  - A second letter of noncompliance has been sent to the homeowner in Hartland by the USACE with a threat of fine. There has not been any response. Notes which were left at the house are still there
  
- **Herbicide spraying**
  - There was spraying of vegetation observed on West River Road near the guardrails. Most likely it was glyphosate. Glyphosate is the main active ingredient in Roundup
  - There was some discussion on approaching the town to determine what their procedures are for spraying vegetation near the water
  - FRCC doesn't have the authority to regulate what is used by the town
  - Another opportunity to understand how the towns apply herbicides is to attend the Farmington Valley Collective, a meeting with the local First Selectman. It is held every other month
  - Due to Wild & Scenic designation the towns have adopted Protective Overlay Districts, which are 100 feet or more in some towns of protected riparian buffer areas
  - There is a landowner's guide for the application of herbicides/pesticides on the FRCC site. It needs updating
  
- **Meeting time change**
  - The Resource Stewardship subcommittee is changing their meeting time to 4:30 on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month, starting in September.

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- **Quilt**
  - New Britain Museum of American Art seems interested but they are booked for many years out

- **Publications**

- JR Rangers Booklet
  - Order has been submitted to print the new version to hand out at the River Day festival.
  - A digital version of the booklet is “down the line”
- Water Map
  - Working group: Stephan, Laura, Ciara, Dan
  - GIS updates in the fall
  - The maps were originally built for fishing
  - The working group is looking to add more to the maps
- Kiosks
  - Nepaug Trail Committee is happy with the funding
  - The trail map will probably be added to the back panel
  - Bill Winchester is ready to build 2 more kiosks
  - There are documents in the google drive for the committee to review here:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Aja5gNTUZEVTg0fg7jwdd0y\\_7bKuRNePmzX6PrY\\_OTA/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Aja5gNTUZEVTg0fg7jwdd0y_7bKuRNePmzX6PrY_OTA/edit) All panels are here:  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18XEPj3lL6g4lJqSYkvTRU1jqNXUj4-fj>

- **Monofilament trash containers**

- To be redesigned by Stephan in the winter
- Most of them have fishing line in them, and they are not as clogged with other trash as before

- **Outreach**

- River Day
  - Sept 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Stephan and FRWA to participate
  - Main speaker will be in honor of Pat Keener
- FRCC Open House - Oct 17<sup>th</sup>
  - Fly fishing will be the exhibit on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Squires Inn
  - FRAA & FVTU are looking to secure fly tiers
  - FRWA to bring in a collection and macroinvertebrate display
  - FVTU is contacting TU national to determine if there is a poster with the lifecycle of a mayfly
  - Travelin' Trout to play at the event
    - They are asking for a donation of \$500, which they will donate to the Barkhamsted Land Trust
    - Vote to donate \$500
      - Dan motion
      - 2<sup>nd</sup> Allison
      - Discussion – Last year, FRCC paid Travelin' Trout. In prior years, FRCC donated the money directly to the Barkhamsted Land Trust
      - Laura to check with Travelin' Trout on how they want to be paid
    - The committee's vote is to have Travelin' Trout play for \$500

- We will discuss how the payment is made in the September meeting
  - Vote – Unanimous
- River Stewards
  - The River Stewards are done for the season

## NEW BUSINESS

- 100 Anniversary of Peoples State Park
  - October 6 is the 100th anniversary celebration for the public
  - In the evening of October 5, there will be an invitation only celebration at Matthies Grove Pavilion.
    - FRCC is invited
    - The event will start at 6:30 PM
    - There will be a premier of the video and there will be guest speakers (TDB)
    - Please RSVP by Sunday, September 29 to falps.org website (Email: [ctfalps@falps.org](mailto:ctfalps@falps.org))

## UPDATES

- **Barkhamsted**
  - August 8<sup>th</sup> – amendment to ban cannabis sales and growing it in the town passed (no public were present) <https://municipal-documents.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/barkhamsted-ct/planning-and-zoning-commission/documents/minutes/85257/PZC%20meeting%20minutes%20August%208.2024.pdf>
  - The Barkhamsted and Hartland Land Trusts are in the process of merging
    - New name will be Northwoods Land Conservancy
    - The merger is targeted to be completed at the end of August
    - This merger will remove the town boundaries
    - Combining two smaller towns allows for more people to support the land trust
    - The merger will reduce expensive i.e.: fees to the Land Trust Alliance and insurance
- **Canton**
  - None
- **Colebrook**
  - None
- **Hartland**
  - None
- **New Hartford**
  - The search continues for a new town FRCC representative
  - Jeremy at Satan’s Kingdom
    - Pleased with the water flow
    - His business back to where it was in past years

- There are more independent tubers. That is where there are issues with skirting the limitations imposed on his tubers prohibiting beer and marijuana
    - He paid for ENCONN officers in the past but he doesn't feel he should be paying them
    - There is a lot of marijuana smoking in the river, which discourages some families from participating
  - There was a discussion of Ben Canino's email to two state representatives: Kavros DeGraw (017) and Anderson (62). It describes trash on the river and requests more patrols and oversight. *This email was forwarded to the FRCC after the meeting*
- **MDC**
  - MDC continues to work with DEEP and USACE on managing the flows
    - 10bg is not as much water. Flows are low coming into the Colebrook reservoir
    - Will the agreement with DEEP & USACE continue? The maintenance costs are still up in the air
  - Hogback Watershed Recreation Commission
    - Looking to get the commission back together
    - The bylaws require meetings in May or June but they don't have all the towns represented
    - Targeting September to meet
    - Flows will be a topic in these meetings
    - Pete reached out to DPH for a representative
- **CT DEEP**
  - Flow management is going well
- **NPS**
  - None
- **FRWA**
  - None
- **FVTU/FRAA**
  - Following up with Mary Becker on the decline of the macroinvertebrates
    - Derick Kirkpatrick, Jim, & DEEP representatives. DEEP is researching old macroinvertebrate data
  - Brian Eltz, Red survey in the tributaries – Sept, Oct timeframe
  - FRAA and FVTU investigating high-tech Hobos
  - FVTU picnic Sept 7 Matthies Grove. Noon
- **River Stewards**
  - Included in Education and Outreach

Next meetings: September 16 October 17 for the Open House, no regular meeting in Oct

- Continue with hybrid meeting format
- Roger will be away for most of October

Adjourn: 8:49 PM