

## FRCC Monthly Meeting

7:00 PM, September 16, 2024

Hybrid Meeting hosted at Squires Tavern and FRWA Zoom

Attendees: Mario Santoro (Barkhamsted), Matt Vinick (Canton), Alison Jassen (Colebrook), Dan Bowler (Hartland), Allison Murdock (New Hartford), Laura Hart (FRWA), Jim Randazzo (MDC), Andrew Petit de Mange (NPS), Stephan Bastryzcki (River Stewards), Pete Aarrestad (DEEP), Torrey Collins (FRAA), Jim Buchok (FVTU), Tom Carpenter (FVTU, Alt)

Call to order at 7:03 PM

### August Minutes

Approved without discussion

### Treasurer's Report

Expenses August 6 to September 12: \$3,244.14 for kiosks; \$9,423.05 to the Assistance River Stewards for August work plus millage; \$4,500 to FRWA for program management; \$5,400 to FRWA for water quality management.

There was a discussion on the allocation of the money in the current budget. There was agreement to revisit the allocations in the winter when the work plans are being developed.

No other questions

### Subcommittee Reports

Executive: Andrew

Nominations of Officers

We are going to nominate and vote during this meeting. The proposal was to vote as a slate listed below. There weren't any objections. It was determined there was a quorum

- Chair: Roger Behrens was not present. He has indicated he will remain as the chair if no one else wants to take the position
- Vice Chair: Mario agreed to continue
- Treasurer: Matt agreed to continue
- Secretary: Dan nominated Tom
- Resource Stewardship subcommittee chair: Allison agreed to continue
- Education & Outreach subcommittee chair: Dan agreed to continue
- Full Committee Vote to elect the officers are listed above
  - Motion: Andrew
  - Second: Laura
  - Favorable: Unanimous
  - Objections/abstentions: none

- There was an agreement to have an executive meeting two times per year: August, before the officer nominations, and in February, before the work plan is developed
- The executive committee meeting will include the officers, NPS, & FRWA
- The executive committee should include developing a succession plan

## Resource Stewardship

- Invasive Plant Management. The contract with All Habitat Service has been signed to remove invasive bittersweet along a section of West River Road. Waiting for DEEP approval
- Water Quality Monitoring. Final water quality monitoring samples have been collected and the results are undergoing data analysis
- Water levels were down in Upper Farmington due to DEEP's fish survey
- Stanley Black & Decker did a drawdown Rainbow Reservoir for an unknown reason. The water is almost back to normal
- Land Protection/Grants. Winchester Land Trust has requested \$10,000 for surveying costs for the acquisition of Laurel Ridge; land between Highland Lake and Route 800. There had been a planned development with a golf course years ago at this location. This is a big acquisition
  - Full committee vote
    - Motion: Allison J
    - Second: Torrey
    - Discussion: there was a question if we needed to provide the full amount requested in the grant. Even with FRCC providing \$10,000, the land trust will still be short of the total, ~\$50,000
    - Can we ask the grantee to return the money if they don't spend it? There isn't anything written in our contracts to pull it back. We do have a stipulation that if the project doesn't happen at all, we can request a return
    - Full Committee Vote
      - Favorable: unanimous
      - Objections/abstentions: none
- The committee discussed increasing the maximum limits for grants from \$10,000 to \$15,000. The R/S subcommittee recommends that the full committee consider this increase
  - The amount of \$10,000 is set it is the land protection grant funds and general grant programs applications
  - If this measure passes, the applications will be changed
  - Applicants need to document how the funds will be used
  - Applicants can request more than one grant
  - There was a discussion on increasing the amount even higher
  - Motion: to Increase the maximum per grant amount in the grant request forms to \$15,000
  - Full committee vote
    - Motion: Allison J
    - Second: Dan
    - Discussion: none
    - Vote

- Favorable: unanimous
  - Objections/abstentions: none
- Culverts No updates on the Hogback Road culvert replacement
- Besty Corrigan has capacity to do invasive plant removal
- Follow-up from prior meeting. The application of herbicides/pesticides is at the discretion of the town, even in the area around Wild & Scenic Rivers

## Education and Outreach

- Quilt
  - There are no new updates on opportunities to display the FRCC quilt
  - Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic committee is constructing their quilt. Once completed, we would want to display their quilt with our quilt
- Publications
  - The new Jr. River Ranger booklets are in. NPS paid for the printing of the first 500 copies
  - Motion: preapprove the publication of 500 more booklets by a local printer if the inventory from the first printing drops below 100 after the River Day event, FALPS 100th celebration, and FRWA Film Festival
  - Full committee vote
    - Motion: Mario
    - Second: Laura
    - Vote
      - Favorable: unanimous
      - Objections/abstentions: none
- Water Map
  - Working group is Stephan, Laura, Ciara, & Dan
  - Edits are being done. GIS updates in the fall
- Kiosks
  - Mary is doing the final edits and will order the 10 panels plus 2 new front panels for Nepaug (NEMBA) soon. They are being prepared for the printer
  - We will receive an undated quote
  - Bike group will do their front panel. NEMBA has a graphic designer that will create the other panels for the kiosks once the trails have been finalized
  - Jim Warner will help install the kiosks
- 6 Monofilament Receptacles signs be redesigned by Stephan in the winter

### Outreach Events:

- River Day – Stephan and FRWA to participate – same as before, 1 activity per grade. New main speaker, in honor of Pat Keener. Stephan will take the 3rd graders to Whittemore and do a scavenger hunt
- PSF 100th anniversary – Stephan will have a table at event. Planting a centennial white oak the day of – FALPS to use reminding grant funds for this
  - October 5th – RSVP event
  - October 6th – Public event, including a tree planting

- Open House – one night event October 17th – fly tying exhibit. Tom and Torrey to reach out for exhibits. FRWA to bring collection and macroinvertebrate display – could also do a live demo
  - Fly tying
    - FVTU has a conflict. Torrey will secure 2-3 fly tyers
    - Tables will be set up on the 2nd floor at Squires Inn
    - Two bug lifecycle posters have been identified online. TU national provided us a softcopy of a set of posters
    - Consider bringing magnifying lights/glasses
    - Need to find out display cases. Clear box used for flies to see
  - Travelin' Trout - \$500 donation to Barkhamsted Land Trust
  - Laura to send out signup sheet for committee reps to bring food, drinks etc. Laura to send out Save the Date to email list
- River Stewards
  - Great season with the stewards again
  - Working on Film Fest video and end of summer report and events
  - Fall projects are new map, and signage
  - FALPS has an intern, Emma Hardee, who is interested in helping Stephan/FRCC at events and projects. Stephan to reach out
- FRWA Film Festival
  - Location: Canton Town Hall
  - The event was sold out last year
  - FRWA has new members signup at the event
  - There will be two film sessions
    - Friday night, more for adults, Brewery Legitimus will serve beer
    - Saturday. Matinee event for kids. Ben & Jerry ice cream will be served
  - Motion: \$2,000 for the FRWA film festival
    - Motion: Dan
    - Second: Allison
    - Full committee vote
      - Favorable: 10
      - Objections: none
      - Abstentions: Laura

## New Business/Other

None

## Local Updates/Organization Reports

- Barkhamsted: No Updates
- Canton: No Updates
- Colebrook: There is great deal of excitement because people may be able to walk on the buried road in the Colebrook reservoir
- Hartland: No Updates
- New Hartford: No Updates

- MDC: Flows are low because there is only 10CFS coming in from New Boston. That is below what is being released in Colebrook. Working on the flow release plan – DEEP has the steering wheel.
  - Jim will provide a chart displaying the water in Colebrook and the elevations of the separate pool
- CT DEEP:
  - Section 2 of PA 24-13 requires DEEP to submit a water management plan on or before January 1, 2025. The report is going through an internal review at DEEP. It is getting close to signoff but there isn't a projected date for the release to the interested parties for their review. The report will contain year over year data
  - There is an opportunity for public education on what can and cannot be done with the flows. 10BG is a lot less than it sounds
    - October 12-20 there will be a drawdown of Otis for a slalom race. This water will get passed through because it can't be stored in Colebrook
  - Every two weeks DEEP is monitoring the cold oxygenated water in the reservoir
  - Broodstock electroshocking
    - Selection of broodstock was done the week of September 1
    - Population estimates haven't been done in several years and will be done this year
      - Can the counts be shared? They haven't crunched the numbers. The preliminary numbers look pretty good
    - Sen Seminara and Rep Anderson joined one day
- NPS:
  - NPS provided Trout Unlimited a cost share grant to train volunteers on the RIVERS app. The virtual training will be held on 9/17 and in person training will be at the Greenwoods pool in Barkhamsted on 9/20. *After the meeting, an email with the registration information for the training sessions was sent to the committee members*
  - The NPS, TU, and FRWA are going to plant trees on the Frey Property in New Hartford. One planting is planned for October and another planting in the spring. The dates have not been set
    - NPS has been contacting committees similar to FRCC to gather the best practices. There is an online session on 9/26, 9:00-11:00
    - The best practices should be reviewed in a future FRCC committee meeting
  - Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers gathering at Jay Peak resort, October 21-23. Participants need to use the special code to reserve a room to get the government rate. *The email with the event information was resent after the meeting*
- FRWA:
  - The annual river cleanup on 9/21
  - A rain garden is being planted at Resha Beach on Highland Lake in Winchester
- FRAA: See FVTU
- FVTU:
  - FVTU & FRAA are researching the purchase of hi-tech hobs
    - The hobo will measure PH, temperature, and conductivity. They are solar powered and the solar collector will be visible. One challenge is to put it where it is less likely to be vandalized. The recommendation is to locate it on private land

- The cost is around \$5,000, excluding installation. An FRCC grant application will be submitted for this purchase. It will be raised in the resource subcommittee
- There will be a lot of data available through a web-based portal. Alert and alarm notifications can be programmed. There was a recommendation to check if the data is aligned with the state's data protocol
- Possible locations
  - By the Pipeline pool on East River Road
  - Route 219 bridge
  - Other locations are being considered
- Redd surveys
  - Brian Eltz (DEEP) provided a list of locations last year and it will be reused this year. Jim B. to contact Brian for technical assistance
  - What is the 'right' CFS for healthy redds? The estimate is 110-120CFS to get water into braided areas where the redds are located. They need the water throughout the winter. Eggs hatch in Feb/March, weather dependent
- River Steward: Nothing in addition to what was in E&O subcommittee report

## Next Meeting Dates

- Full committee: November 18
- Subcommittees:
  - Education & Outreach
    - Mon. Oct 7 @ 4:30 PM by Zoom meeting
    - Mon. Nov 4 @ 4:30 PM by Zoom meeting
  - Resource Stewardship
    - Wed Oct 2 @ 4:30 PM by Zoom meeting
    - Wed Nov 6 @ 4:30 PM by Zoom meeting

## Upcoming Events

- River Day September 18
- PSF 100th Anniversary Oct 5 and 6
- FRCC Open House October 17
- PWSR conference, Jay Peak, October 21-23

## Adjourn

8:46 PM