



Farmington River Coordinating Committee

Monthly Meeting
7:00 PM, November 18, 2024
Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Roger Behrens (Chair/Barkhamsted), Mario Santoro (Vice Chair/Barkhamsted), Matt Vinick (Treasurer/Canton), Alison Jassen (Resource Chair/Colebrook), Dan Bowler (E&O Chair/Hartland), Alison Murdock (New Hartford), Laura Hart (FRWA), Jim Randazzo (MDC), Andrew Petitdemange (NPS), Stephan Bastryzcki (River Steward), Pete Aarrestad (DEEP), Torrey Collins (FRAA), Jim Buchok (FVTU), Tom Carpenter (Secretary/FVTU - Alt), Ciara Kilkenny (FRWA), Brad Bremer (Colebrook 1st Selectman)

Roger Behrens called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM

September Minutes

Approved without discussion

Treasurer's Report

- 2024 & 2025 Treasurer reports were sent prior to the meeting
- \$9,726.65 of 2024 funds are moving to 2025. Grant and Upper Watershed Resilience funds only
- The 2025 budget was presented in the meeting
- 2024 FY spending from 9/13 - 11/12/24 \$40,514.51
 - Winchester Land Trust Grant \$10,000
 - FRWA Culvert Assessments \$906.80
 - FRWA Water Quality Monitoring contract \$5,400
 - Barkhamsted School River Day Grant \$3,521.21
 - River Steward contract \$6,250
 - FALPS grant \$594
 - Kiosk Graphic Design fee \$4,950
 - Pannier Graphics kiosk printing \$5,147.50
 - Town of Colebrook NRI grant \$2,500
 - Jr. River Ranger booklet printing \$1,245
- 2025 FY spending from 10/1 – 11/12/24 \$10,821.79
 - Stamps \$58.40
 - North Woods Land Conservancy for Travelin' Trout \$200
 - Travelin' Trout Open House \$300
 - FRWA fiscal agent 10% fee \$9,545
 - PWSR conference \$718.39



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Subcommittees

Executive

- An Executive Committee meeting will be held in early February
- The subcommittees have been asked to identify potential 2026-2027 projects in their January meetings

Education and Outreach

Open House

- A successful event
- The fly tiers were appreciated
- There was a discussion on increasing the attendance for the 2025 open house. Several ideas were raised including posting the event on the towns' Facebook page, outreach through specific social media accounts, and utilizing other organizations' email distribution lists

Map

- The "Map" group has met to redesign the map. They are exploring the possibility of separate maps for fishing, hiking, and a higher-level map. Discussions included upgrading the material to be more waterproof and adding a QR code
- This link is for the working task list for the map redesign group. Add your initials if you add a suggestion [River Map Revisions 2024](#)

Monofilament Receptacles

- New signs – exploring using a local printer or the one who prints the kiosks

Resource

- Invasive Plant Management. All-Habitat completed the work on West River Road
- Jean Darlington attended the subcommittee meeting. She was not representing an organization. She requested FRCC add to the list of potential projects the removal of the Japanese knotweed on the Butler property in New Hartford
- Paige Vichiola from FRWA presented the Water Quality Monitoring Final report. The report was distributed to the committee members before the meeting. The Mad, Still, Beaver, & an unnamed tributary are acceptable. Jim Brook in Canton is the only one with spikes

Land Protection/Grants

- FVTU/FRAA grant request for a high-tech HOB0 for **\$3,637.00**
- The grant proposal was approved by the resource committee
 - The grant and the supporting documents were sent to the general committee members before the meeting
- Full committee vote to approve the grant
 - Motion: Roger
 - Second: Pete
 - Discussion: The current plan is to install it behind Upcountry Sportfishing store in New Hartford. This site was selected because there are a lot of tributaries in the area and its proximity to Rte. 44. The location is secure



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- Vote: Unanimous
 - Objections/abstentions: None
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New Business

- There is money left from the \$10,000 FRCC grant to FALPS to plant 26 trees for the 100th anniversary. A supplemental request may be submitted to use some of the excess funds to put a plaque on a rock commemorating the planting of the 100th anniversary white oak tree
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Town Updates

- Barkhamsted: No Updates
- Canton: No Updates
- Colebrook: No Updates
- Hartland: Hartland & Barkhamsted Land trusts have officially merged to become the North Woods Land Conservancy
- New Hartford: No Updates

Organization Updates

- **MDC**
 - A schematic drawing for the water allocations in Colebrook River Lake was distributed to the committee prior to the meeting
 - Neither Howells Brook nor Thorne brook are monitored by MDC. They flow into the spillway and not the reservoir
- **CT DEEP**
 - The review of the proposed Inland Sports Fish regulations package has been delayed. The proposed changes will not be implemented on the original target date of January 1, 2025. Because hard copy booklets are distributed, the earliest for the implementation of these proposed changes will be January, 1 2026
 - The riverside survey being conducted by DEEP will conclude at the end of 2024. Data will be available in 2025
 - The draft of the flow plan, as stipulated in Section 2 of PA 24-13, is still under review. DEEP will reach out to stakeholders for review of the plan
- **NPS**
 - Aimee Petras (FRWA) joined Laura and Andrew at NPS' biannual wild & scenic partnership conference in October
 - NPS' Water Resources Organization has added the Upper Farmington River to their list of organizations to possibly support
 - Last minute funding from one of the federal bills for aquatic activity. Dam removals is one way to use these funds. NPS staff is looking at what would be in the pipeline



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- The Egg Harbor (NJ) Wild & Scenic River looks to tie their activities to the economic impact for the region. Fred Akers is the contact at their coalition
- **FRWA**
 - Film Festival Friday night had +150 people attend. The Saturday Kids Matinee attendance was approximately 20 kids & 20 adults
- **FRAA** No Updates
- **FVTU**
 - Working with Brian Eltz (DEEP) to conduct Redd surveys. 10 people have volunteered. Each person has been assigned to one stream
- **River Steward** No Updates

Upcoming Meetings

- The December full committee meeting will be the holiday party
- The January full committee meeting is currently scheduled on MLK Day
 - We will move our meeting to January 27

Adjourn: 8:47 PM