



Farmington River Coordinating Committee

FRCC Monthly Meeting

7:00 PM, January 27, 2025

Hybrid Meeting hosted at Squires Tavern and Zoom

Attendees:

Roger Behrens (Chair/Barkhamsted)	Torrey Collins (FRAA)
Mario Santoro (Vice Chair/Barkhamsted)	Jim Buchok (FVTU)
Matt Vinick (Treasurer/Canton)	Stephan Bastryzcki (River Stewards)
Tom Carpenter (Secretary/FVTU)	Pete Aarrestad (DEEP)
Alison Jassen (Resource Chair/Colebrook)	Ciara Kilkenny (FRWA)
Dan Bowler (E&O Chair/Hartland)	Matt Coleman (USACE)
Laura Hart (FRWA)	
Andrew Petitemange (NPS)	

Roger Behrens called the meeting to order at 7:06

Prior Minutes

The December 16, 2024 meeting minutes were approved without discussion

Treasurer's Report

- \$18,000 allocated for invasive species – there are plans but not solidified
- Grants \$22,000 not obligated

Subcommittees

Executive

- 2025-2026 Work Plan Draft Discussion
 - Goal to have the draft ready for the February meeting
 - The executive subcommittee will meet prior to the February full committee meeting
 - Raise any new ideas through the two other subcommittees
- 10-year management plan
 - The prior plan 'expired' in 2023
 - It doesn't require a complete rewriting; minor revisions are acceptable
- Laural Ridge Survey - Winchester Land Trust sent a thank you note for the grant
- Kindergarten at Botelle school sent a thank you note

- Annual Report
 - Draft is underway
 - Roger wrote the cover letter

Resource

Invasive Plant Management

- DEEP marked invasive treatment areas in Peoples and Nepaug
- Dr. Cheah has submitted the 2024 HWA report
- Copies of the Simsbury Invasive Plant Guide Book were distributed to the committee members who attended the meeting in person. It was produced by Simsbury Land Trust and paid for by the Lower Committee. [InvasivesBooklet2023-9.3.pdf](#)

Grants

- Dr. Cheah will be submitting a grant to fund more Hemlock Wooley Adelgid treatments
- Grant application was submitted by Hartland's Historical Society
- Colebrook – still waiting for the final draft/copy of the project FRCC funded

Water Quality Monitoring

- The FVTU and FRAA Onset water quality monitoring equipment has recently arrived, including a dissolved oxygen sensor. The cost for this sensor is to be covered by FVTU & FRAA
- FRWA Water quality report will be in delivered in March

Culverts

- Ratlum Brook Culvert Replacement
 - Preliminary meeting was held

Neonicotinoids

- FVTU working with other organizations on the pending bill

Education and Outreach

Quilt

- Planning joint display both the Upper and Lower quilts in the Kingswood/Oxford School in their field house in West Hartford in September
- FRCC rep will contact Lower Committee to display it in the state capitol

Map

- Looking to simplify the map by using symbols and incorporating a style guide

Publications

- a. Posters
 - A copy was shared in the meeting
- b. Monofilament Receptacle Signs
 - They are ordered & we are waiting for the proofs
- c. Nepaug Trail Committee - Management plan. Stephan reviewed it

River Stewards

- River Rocks in New Hartford will be approaching FRCC
 - Scheduled for June 21, 2025
 - Stewards will be there that day
- Summer job openings are posted but nothing to report
- Simsbury School Salmon – new business
 - Simsbury release salmon on Friday, May 2nd
 - They work with the CT River Salmon Association
 - Stephan to forward email to Jim B

New Business

- Discussion on how to capture different groups activities around the river; i.e.: FRCC, FRWA, FVTU, FRAA

Other

- NOT FRCC business, but the Pat Keener Scholarship Fund previously sponsored scholarships for high school students in the 5 riverfront towns in environmental paths at universities.
 - There was a balance of \$188
 - FRWA rounded up the amount to \$200 and donated it to the group of schools

Town Updates

- Barkhamsted: No update
- Canton: No update
- Colebrook: A company has submitted a proposal to sell RV's in the limited business district
- Hartland: No update
- New Hartford: No update

Organization Updates

- MDC: No update
- USACME:
 - Colebrook River Lake Reservoir is at 663.45 ASL. That is 40 feet below normal
 - Thomas R Carper Act
 - MDC did send the official notification to be removed from the contract with USACE on 1/22/25
- CT DEEP:
 - Farmington River Flow Plan
 - MDC & USACE were consulted
 - USACE will continue to control the releases from the Colebrook dam
 - MDC will continue to operate the releases from the Hogback dam
 - Bill H.B. No. 5676 raised by Rep Anderson. Elevation for the seasonal pool in Colebrook
 - Year-round angler survey

- Information collected directly from anglers on the river. End of February is the deadline for obtaining responses to survey questions that were delivered electronically beginning in early 2025 (to increase sample size and to ensure broader stakeholder engagement).
- NPS
 - Graphic designer will support/update FRCC materials (508 compliant)
 - FRWA/FVTU challenge cost grant to train volunteers to do river assessment.
 - A tree planting was part of the grant, which is scheduled for March 28 & 29 on the Frey property in New Hartford
- FRWA
 - Ciara Kilkenny is assigned to the E&O subcommittee
 - She will be the official FRWA Alternate
- FRAA: No update
- FVTU: No other updates
- River Steward
 - Automated counter for the river was discussed
 - More research will be done/investigate the costs and benefit

Upcoming Meetings

- Next meeting dates
 - Full committee: February 24, 2025 – moved one week due to the federal holiday
 - Subcommittees:
 - Executive – Prior to the full February full committee meeting to review the 2025-2026 Work Plan
 - Education & Outreach February 3, 2025, at 4:30 PM
 - Map working group meeting at 4:00 PM
 - Resource Stewardship February 5, 2025

Adjourn: 8:42 PM