



## Farmington River Coordinating Committee

FRCC Monthly Meeting

7:00 PM, March 17, 2025

Zoom Meeting

### Attendees:

Mario Santoro (Vice Chair/Barkhamsted)  
Matt Vinick (Treasurer/Canton)  
Tom Carpenter (Secretary/FVTU)  
Alison Jassen (Resource Chair/Colebrook)  
Dan Bowler (E&O Chair/Hartland)  
Tom Stanton (Colebrook)  
Alison Murdock (New Hartford)  
Laura Hart (FRWA)  
Jim Randazzo (MDC)

Andrew Petitemange (NPS)  
Matthew Gocłowski (DEEP)  
Torrey Collins (FRAA)  
Jim Buchok (FVTU)  
Stephan Bastryzcki (River Stewards)  
Ciara Kilkenny (FRWA)  
Paige Vichiola (FRWA)  
Kaitlin Cole (FRWA)

Excerpts from FRWA's Water Quality report and Conductivity report were presented by Paige Vichiola and Ciara Kilkenny prior to the meeting being called to order. The full reports are online: <https://www.frwa.org/resources> under the 'Research' tab

Mario Santoro called the meeting to order at 7:26 PM

### Prior Minutes

Approved without discussion

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### Treasurer's Report

- There is \$67,000 unobligated, mostly from the Upper Watershed Reliance and Grant programs

### Subcommittees

#### Executive

- None

#### Education and Outreach

- Pair Designs provided estimates for the designs of the map brochure and roll-up banner. The quote range is \$1,900-2,450

- Motion: Dan
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Alison J
- Discussion: This quote is just for the design, and not the printing
- Vote: Unanimous
- Collinsville Canoe & Kayak Paddling Film Festival Fundraiser \$695
  - Motion: Mario
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Matt V.
  - Discussion: None
  - Vote: Unanimous
  - Abstain: Laura
- New Hartford River Rocks event \$2,000
  - Motion: Laura
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Andrew
  - Discussion: The original request was for \$7,500. The proposed grant amount of \$2,000 is to support the educational portion of the event
  - Vote: Unanimous
- Printing Jr. River Ranger booklets \$1,926 for 500 copies or \$3,391 for 1,000 copies
  - Motion to print 1,000: Laura
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dan
  - Discussion: None
  - Vote: Unanimous
- Barkhamsted River Day school event is requesting a grant of \$5,000. The E&O subcommittee will review this grant request in their April meeting

## Resource

### Invasive Plant Management

- All Habitats quotes for treating bittersweet and other invasives as defined in the quote. Quotes were submitted for treatments in People State Forest and Nepaug
  - Approval for the People State Forest quote of \$16,000
  - Motion: Dan
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jim
  - Discussion: We will only vote for the treatment in People State Forest, not Nepaug. Treatment of the invasives in that section of the river could be revisited in August.
  - Vote: Unanimous

### Grants

- Recommendation for the approval of the conductivity monitoring grant proposal from FRWA for \$9,605
  - Motion: Allison J
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Alison M
  - Discussion: The grant is for the monitoring devices and labor to support the monitoring
  - Vote: Unanimous

- Abstain: Laura

## Other

- Ratlum Brook Culvert
  - Awaiting a summary plan from TU's Tracy Brown
  - Laura met with New Hartford government leadership, Dan Jerram (1<sup>st</sup> Selectman) & Christine Hayward (Admin Asst to 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman). They support the removal of the culvert, but share the same concern which has been expressed before, how to access the site of the culvert

## New Business

- None
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## Town Updates

- Barkhamsted: Planning & Zoning approved the special exception for the property on River Road for the construction of a contractor shop, with storage and outside storage. [Barkhamsted Planning & Zoning Minutes 03/13/25](#)
- Canton:
  - There is a proposal for a gravel strip mine in town. The town is working through the legal process
  - Town budget meeting - FRWA support was raised in the meeting
- Colebrook: None
- Hartland: None
- New Hartford: None

## Organization Updates

- MDC: Elevation of Colebrook – 675 feet. It is low
- CT DEEP:
  - Opening day of catch & keep is April 12, 2025
  - Bank stabilization project in Barkhamsted. Princeton Hydro submitted the packet on behalf of the town. Andrew to contact town first selectman to confirm they support the proposal
- NPS:
  - Continuing Resolution for federal funding passed and is effective through September
- FRWA:
  - Tree planting on March 28 & 29
    - Frey Property in New Hartford
    - FRWA and TU project, funded by the National Park Service
- FRAA: None
- FVTU:
  - DOT guidelines for the application of herbicides and road treatments along wetlands and waterways to be shared with the FRCC full committee

- High Tech Hobo – prefab is underway
- TU national is concerned about the ongoing funding of \$180MM in federal grants
- CT TU submitted testimony on riparian buffer bill – HB7174
- River Stewards:
  - Monofilament signs were delivered
  - Trail counters on waterways are not recommended. Changes in the height of the water and the glare off of the river result in false counting
  - Interviews for the River Steward positions are underway. Official last day for applications is the end of March

## Upcoming Meetings

- Next meeting dates
  - Full committee: 7:00 PM
    - April 21 Hybrid
    - May 19 TBD Hybrid or Zoom
    - June 16 TBD Hybrid or Zoom
  - Subcommittees:
    - Education & Outreach, April 7, by Zoom
      - Map working group: 4:00 PM
      - Full Subcommittee: 4:30 PM
    - Resource Stewardship: April 2, 4:30 PM, by Zoom

## Adjourn

Motion to adjourn: Alison J

2<sup>nd</sup>: Mario

8:53 PM