

## **FRCC Monthly Meeting**

**May 19, 2025**

### **Hybrid Meeting hosted at Squires Tavern and FRWA Zoom**

#### **Attendees:**

Roger Behrens (Chair/Barkhamsted)	Laura Hart (FRWA)
Mario Santoro (Vice Chair/Barkhamsted)	Andrew Petitdemange (NPS)
Matt Vinick (Treasurer/Canton)	Pete Aarrestad (DEEP)
Tom Carpenter (Recording Secretary/FVTU)	Torrey Collins (FRAA)
Alison Jassen (Resource Chair/Colebrook)	Jim Buchok (FVTU)
Dan Bowler (E&O Chair/Hartland)	Ciara Kilkenny (FRWA)
Alison Murdock (New Hartford)	Kaitlin Cole (FRWA)

Roger Behrens called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM

## **Prior Minutes**

Approved without discussion

## **Treasurer's Report**

- Matt V. reviewed the budget

## **Subcommittees**

### **Executive**

- Subcommittees should consider contingency plans if NPS funding isn't allocated to support groups such as FRCC

## **Education and Outreach**

### **Quilt**

- Communication between the two Farmington River W&S committees regarding the quilt
  - Potential for showing at Bradley Airport
  - Town of Granby has expressed an interest in displaying both quilts
  - Joint display of the quilts at Kingswood School in West Hartford in September

### **Publications**

- Water Map
  - Back page needs information about W&S
  - New photos include wildlife, birding, & hiking, in addition to paddling and fishing

- Text available on [google docs](#)
- QR code to download the map
- Matt V offered to take pictures of the river using a drone

## Outreach

- Upper & Lower W&S committee paddle at Rainbow Reservoir, June 19
  - Meeting after, possibly at FRWA's office
- Additional paddle is being considered for September or October, possibly at Hogback
- Canton Canoe & Kayak Paddling Film Festival at Brewery Legitimus, June 20
- New Hartford River Rocks at Hurley Business Park, June 21
- June – DEEP/FRCC/Legislators paddle
  - DEEP to secure some boats
  - Possibly June, after the legislative session: June 23, 25, 26, or 27
  - Tentative: Church Pool to Satan's Kingdom

## River Stewards

- 3 previous River Stewards to return, 3 new River Stewards - 6 total.
- May 31<sup>st</sup> is the first day, training at Squires Tavern

## Other

- Leave \$300 for FALPS final tree planting grant (return rest). \$1,191 remained unused from the tree planting grant. \$300 was retained to cover the cost of a bronze plaque being planned to commemorate the centennial oak; the balance was returned.

## Resource

### Invasive Species Management

- All Habitat Service has started painting and cutting in approved sections in People's Forest
- Autumn Olive has been identified as remaining in the area not yet cleared
- The company is planning on removing it

### Water Quality Monitoring

- Water Quality Monitoring is ongoing
- All data loggers are being swapped out and data is being downloaded
- New loggers have been placed in new locations
- Summer monitoring begins May 19<sup>th</sup>

### Land Protection/Grants

- No land protection grants were received

### Culverts

TU submitted an estimate for the Ratlum Brook Reconnection Project to mitigate the impaired culvert presenting a barrier to the Eastern Brook Trout. The requested amount of \$15,500 includes:

- Data summary, sub-watershed assessment and map of watershed
- Monitoring plan and 1 summer monitoring data collection

- Watershed wide road crossing survey and management recommendations
- One priority conceptual level culvert and dam removal and restoration design and cost estimate; culvert removal to include cost comparison between replacement and removal
- The project includes monitoring:
  - Develop a river specific monitoring plan
  - Work with CT DEEP Fisheries staff to collect fish data in the watershed
- DEEP & Army Cops involved
- This plan considers a restoration and not a replacement of the culvert and the dam
- A NFWL grant will be submitted after the plan
- Vote
  - Motion: Alison J
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Matt
  - Discussion: Multiple private landowners are listed in the documents which were distributed but only one private landowner would be impacted by the proposal
  - The town of New Hartford supports the removal of the culvert and the private landowner supports removing the dam downstream from the culvert
  - There was consideration to include another culvert and dam in this project. They are on private land and the landowner didn't approve access to their land
  - Vote: Motion passes unanimously

#### Hobo

- FVTU & FRAA installed the high-tech hobo behind Upcountry
- Exploring an easy way to share the data
- Some of the sensors are not working and are being addressed
- The conductivity and pH readings are being reviewed for accuracy

## New Business

#### Japanese Knotweed

- Colebrook is working with the town DPW to address this invasive in their town
- There is an initiative to organize a multi-town group in the Upper Farmington River
- They are looking for a rep from Barkhamsted
- Towns would do the mapping of Japanese Knotweed

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## Town Updates

- Barkhamsted: None
- Canton: None
- Colebrook: None
- Hartland: Dan B. met with Maggie Winslow, Frist Selectwoman, and provided an update on FRCC
- New Hartford: Conservation Commission is being reincarnated

## Organization Updates

- MDC: Not present
- CT DEEP:
  - Riverton Fishing Derby
    - 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Riverton Fishing Derby was held on April 12<sup>th</sup>
    - Pete A. represented DEEP
    - Legislators Anderson & Honig attended
  - Yearlong survey/interviews
    - Staff is pulling together the data
    - The results could possibly influence regulation changes in 2027
    - It has not been published
  - Farmington River Flow Management Plan
    - Adjusted based on feedback
    - DEEP internal review completed, including commissioner sign off
    - Currently with the Office of Policy and Management for review
  - Colebrook is full – looking to maintain it close to 708ft
    - Needs to be below 708 after July 1
  - Hatcheries budget was restored in the current proposed budget
- NPS:
  - Staffing assignment for each W&S river is being reviewed
  - Westfield Wild & Scenic Committee
    - Road salt reduction campaign. They would be a good resource. Similar to Green Snow Pro. The main additive is molasses!
    - CT law - the road has to be melted within 24 hours
  - W&S coalition advocacy efforts [Home - Wild and Scenic Rivers](#)
- FRWA: None
- FRAA: Rainbow trout were stocked in the Upper Farmington
- FVTU: Provided written testimony for the Riparian Buffer Bill (HB7174)

## Upcoming Meetings

- Full committee: Monday: June 16, July 21, August 18
- Subcommittees:
  - Education & Outreach: Monday June 2, 4:30 PM via Zoom meeting
  - Resource Stewardship: Wednesday June 4, 4:30 PM via Zoom meeting

**Adjourn:** 8:45 PM