

FRCC Monthly Meeting

September 15, 2025

FRWA Zoom

Attendees:

Roger Behrens (Chair/Barkhamsted)	Ciara Kilkenny (FRWA)
Mario Santoro (Vice Chair/Barkhamsted)	Kaitlin Cole (FRWA)
Tom Carpenter (Recording Secretary/FVTU)	Jim Randazzo (MDC)
Alison Jassen (Resource Chair/Colebrook)	Lauren Bonatakis (NPS)
Matthew Gocłowski (DEEP)	Stephan Bastryzcki (River Stewards)
Jim Buchok (FVTU)	

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

Prior Minutes

Approved without discussion

Treasurer's Report

- No discussion

Subcommittees

Executive

- If available, be at Kingswood Oxford on 9/19 at 5PM to set up the quilt
- Potential government shutdown on October 1
 - Congress needs to pass a budget or a continuing resolution by October 1 to avoid a shutdown
 - NPS will not be working if there is a shutdown. NPS staff will not have access to their work emails during a shutdown

Resource

Invasive Plant Management

- Kaitlin spoke with Laura Hart, and she recommends that we ask All Habitat to inspect the previously treated areas along West River Road and retreat as needed
- A motion to fund this activity is not being proposed tonight; the Resource subcommittee will revisit this in the October meeting

Water Quality Monitoring

- Water quality monitoring is ongoing. Summer bacteria monitoring has ended

Grants

- No land protection grants were received

Culverts

Ratlum Brook Culvert Project

- Draft design is in progress
- CT DEEP Fisheries completed upstream & downstream electroshocking on Ratlum Brook & Spruce Brook (feeder into Ratlum Brook). High numbers of native brook trout were present, with some measuring up to 20 cm

Culvert Surveys

- FVTU resuming surveys with a focus on streams with potential native trout populations
- FVTU reviewing list provided them by Brian Eltz, DEEP Fisheries

Others: Continuing/New

West River Road Bank Stabilization

- Permits submitted by Princeton Hydro are still being reviewed
- There should be a decision by Nov 2025

Grenier/Sandy Brook Dam Removal

- CT DEEP electroshocked the upstream & downstream sections the week of 9/8
- The dam was originally installed in the 1980's; the homeowner didn't get a permit
- The fish ladder was the mitigation effort but it targeted salmon. It is not useful for brook trout
- FVTU to consider repairing the fish ladder to be more suitable for brook trout
- FVTU will get a rough order of magnitude for dam removal to determine the scope of the project
- There will need to be an analysis of the sediment behind the dam prior to the removal

Redd Surveys

- FVTU to solicit volunteers for Farmington River tributary redd surveys
- Efforts are key to CT DEEP native brook trout restoration project

Japanese Knotweed

- Allison Murdock will talk to Dan Jerram, New Hartford First Selectman, about the Japanese Knotweed multitown efforts
- The other towns have sent their town crews to education sessions where the focus was to prevent excess spread of this invasive plant

Education and Outreach

Quilt

- Roger may be available to help hang quilt on 9/19

Publications

Website Upgrades

- Possible new website platform
- FRCC has three platforms
- Webflow is the platform that the River Stewards are on. Lower is on this platform too
- Potential project for the upcoming year
- Looking into requirements for project & any additional needs
- Potentially hire someone to do legwork of importing information to the new system

Junior Ranger Book

- They will be handing out the Junior Ranger River booklets at River Day

Outreach

October Open House

- October 23
- Potluck sign-up sheet
 - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054AA9A623A7F9C25-58684768-frcc>
- Travelling Trout will be asked to play
- Show 100-year FALPS film & other art/photography displays, a few quilt panels
- Ann Hall temp historical exhibit
- Ideas
 - River History theme. 70th anniversary of the 1955 flood
 - Photographs and other artifacts, like maps
 - Eric Landgraf (FALPS) will bring the TV monitor to show the film 20-minute film
 - Paul Hart had a photography contest for the 100th, we could exhibit many of those photos
 - New Hartford historical society may have photos
 - Mario ordered newspaper articles about the flood
- Motion
 - Tom C made the following motion
 - Pay Travelling Trout \$500 to perform at the open house without a stipulation on how the money can be used by the group
 - 2nd: Allison J
 - Discussion: None
 - Vote: Unanimous

River Day

- September 17th – Scavenger Hunt
 - There are a limited number of JR River Guide books left and they will be distributed at this event

River Stewards

- Stewards wrapped up for the summer, Stephan working on year-end report
- A recommendation to renew Stephan's contract to be moved to the full committee in a future meeting

New Business

Farmington Pier

- The removal of the pier in Farmington will start tomorrow

Town Updates

- Barkhamsted:

- East River Road property where the trees were removed
 - The property owner has not applied for a permit
 - This property had a non-conforming zoning permit approved years ago for the prior property owner
 - Because of prior approvals by the zoning board, it will be a challenge to obtain a permit for the planned excavation
- Canton: Not present
- Colebrook: None
- Hartland: Not present
- New Hartford: Not Present

Organization Updates

- MDC:
 - Flow from New Boston is 12 CFS
 - The flows were low because of the sampling performed by DEEP
 - 660.81 100 feet below the spillway
- CT DEEP:
 - Annual trout sampling
 - Performed last week
 - Brood stock brown trout were collected
 - Population looks healthy
 - Winchel Smith Dam was removed last week
 - One step closer for migratory fish to move up the Farmington River
 - Rainbow Reservoir Dam
 - By 2028, SBD needs to come into compliance with flow regulations
- NPS: Nothing more than what was discussed earlier
- FRWA:
 - Winchell Smith Dam removed
 - Farmington Pier removal starting tomorrow
- FRAA: Not present
- FVTU: Nothing more than what was above
- River Stewards:
 - One river steward will come back and assist at the River Day

Upcoming Meetings

- Full committee: October 23 Open House, November 17, December 15
- Subcommittees:
 - Education & Outreach: Monday October 6, 4:30 PM by Zoom meeting
 - Resource Stewardship: Wednesday October 1, 4:30 PM by Zoom meeting
- **Upcoming Events**
 - Kingswood Oxford School in West Hartford Quilt Show September 19 – 21, 2025
- Annual Farmington River Clean Ups:

- September 21st 10:00 AM-12:00 PM: Alsop Meadows, Avon
- September 27th 10:00 AM-12:00 PM: Canton Canoe and Kayak, Canton
- September 27th 10:00 AM-12:00 PM: Windsor Boat Ramp, Windsor

Adjourn: 7:55 PM