



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE

100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern

Pleasant Valley, CT 06063

860-738-2456 farmingtonriver.org

Minutes

Resource Stewardship subcommittee

Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 4:30 PM

Zoom

Attendance: Colebrook (Alison Jassen, Representative, R/S Subcommittee Chair), Barkhamsted (Roger Behrens, Representative, FRCC Committee Chair), Trout Unlimited (Jim Buchok, Representative), DEEP (Matt Goclawski, Representative), FRWA (Laura Hart, Representative), FRWA (Kaitlin Cole, Alternate)
Guest: Ciara Kilkenny from FRWA – for presentation of nutrient grant request, Madalaine McClave – New Hartford Land Trust

Agenda:

1. Invasive Species Management

All Habitat has completed the invasive plant removal in Nepaug State Forest.

2. Water Quality Monitoring

The report for the 2025 water quality monitoring is completed and will be presented at the March full committee meeting.

3. Land Protection/Grants

Ciara Kilkenny presented the grant request for funding to conduct a nutrient study of the Farmington and its tributaries. The proposal includes a request to fund the purchase of a spectrophotometer. The purchase saves money because samples will no longer need to be analyzed by UCONN plus it saves on travel reimbursement so that by 2028 the purchase of the spectrophotometer will pay for itself by 2028. Additionally, the sample processing time will be reduced. The nutrient study will help identify if and where nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus are entering the river. Fifteen sites will be sampled four times during the year for a total of 60 (sixty) samples.

The grant covers the costs for 2026 (\$6136) and 2027 (\$1870). The money for 2026 will be allocated from the 2026 budget and the amount from 2027 will come from next year’s budget.

Alison Jassen moved to approve the request and Jim Buchok seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Culverts

Jim Buchok reported that the homeowner is pursuing efforts to remove the dam on Sandy Brook.

5. New Business

Madalaine McClave from the New Hartford Land Trust presented information about Japanese Knotweed along the Farmington. A group of volunteers from surrounding towns – Winsted, Barkhamsted, Colebrook, Norfolk as well as New Hartford are mapping the location of Knotweed in the towns. She showed us a map of New Hartford with locations of Knotweed identified. The amount of Knotweed along the Farmington River in New Hartford is concerning. She asked how FRCC could help with removal. We explained the role of FRCC in providing funding for invasive removal projects. We encouraged her to look at the grant application on the FRCC. We also told her about our efforts with All Habitat and offered to share contact information with her. She was concerned that we would not fund projects that use herbicides and that there is no way to remove Knotweed without using herbicide. We explained that we had seen the Christian Allen presentation and that he made it clear that a dilute herbicide application is approved and effective for Knotweed removal and that without herbicide, there is risk of further spreading.