



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire's Tavern
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Education and Outreach sub-committee
January 5, 2026 Minutes

In attendance: Dan Bowler (Hartland and subcommittee Chair), Roger Behrens and Mario Santoro (Barkhamsted), Matt Vinick (Canton), Lauren Bonatakis (NPS), Laura Hart (FRWA), Stephan Bastrzycki (River Steward)

Called to order by Dan at 4:35pm

2026-2027 Workplan Draft:

- The 2026-2027 budget is expected to be \$210,000 again, but do not know the final numbers yet until Congress passes it.
- Discussed increasing the rate for the stewards. Min wage has gone up. Decided to increase by a dollar; **\$20 to new stewards, \$21 to returning stewards**. New federal mileage rate 72.5 cents. This is in keeping the same budgeted allocated.
- Keeping the same as current year: **\$60,000 to river stewards, \$3,000 to outreach**.
- Discussion on states impact/involvement regarding Satan's kingdom public outreach. Do other groups do this type of thing? Yes, some other rivers have river steward programs. The FRCC program started in 2014. Saco River in Maine does this, that is where Stephan gathered info on this type of program. Discussed recognition from NPS for this program to help show how unique and effective this program is. Can the state augment what the River Stewards are doing? Besides what Encon is doing? Fishing community has worked with Encon on poaching, Encon may been working with bigger problems. Potentially Matt can reach out to Town of Canton Police and/or Kevin Witkos, first selectman of Canton. Tickets for littering or something at the tubing take-out?
- Executive subcommittee meeting for final workplan draft in advance of the full committee vote - Wednesday Jan 21 at 11am – Dan, Roger, Mario, Lauren, Matt, Laura, yes

Quilt:

- April showing at the CT Convention Center – all set
- Quilt postcards – for the local town showings, not the convention – just have a QR code option for the show. Laura to get a quote before deciding upon quantities.
- Social media reel, add a video. Once per week all year long post of each section (on frwa account). 52 weeks in a year, 52 quilt sections. Started with section 1 on Jan 5. Monday posts. Matt can do the video when it is all up.

Publications:

- **Website Upgrades:** contracted with Mike Roy, waiting for him to start.
- **Annual Report:** Laura is working on the 2025 FRCC Annual Report, Roger to write a new cover letter

Outreach: Falps new years day hike – Stephan attended

River Stewards: n/a

Other: n/a

Next subcommittee meeting: March 2 at 4:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:22pm