



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern
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Approved Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting
Monday, June 20, 2011
MDC Hogback/Goodwin Dam (Picnic Area) – West Branch Reservoir, Hartland

Present: Tim Anthony (MDC Rep); Tiffany Caisse (SCA/Americorps Apprentice); Eileen Fielding (FRWA Alt/Treas.); Liz Lacy (NPS Alt/FRCC Director); Mark Lindquist (New Hartford Alt); Alison Murdock (New Hartford Rep); Susan Peterson (CT DEP Rep/Sec.); Bill Roberts (Canton Rep); Mario Santoro (Barkhamsted Rep); David Sinish (FRWA Rep); Edna Travis (Colebrook Alt/Chair)

Pre-meeting Paddle

The regular FRCC meeting was preceded by a canoe and kayak outing on West Branch Reservoir. Participants met at 4:30 p.m. at the MDC Hogback/Goodwin Dam visitors’ parking area and boat put-in.

Regular FRCC Meeting

Guests: Ian Jones & parents; Deanna Nappi & parents (Scholarship recipients)

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Chair Travis at 7:04 p.m. The meeting was held in the picnic area at the MDC Hogback/Goodwin Dam overlooking the West Branch Reservoir.
- 2. Presentation of 2010 FRCC Scholarship Awards:** Roberts presented the Johnson Scholarship Award to Ian Jones (**Canton**), and the Keener Scholarship Award to Deanna Nappi (**Canton**). Caisse took photos.

(Guests left and regular meeting resumed.)

- 3. Approval of Minutes of May 16, 2011 meeting:** Minutes were approved as presented.
- 4. Treasurer’s Report:** Fielding reviewed the Treasurer’s Report which was distributed as a handout. As of June 13, 2011, the new checking account balance was \$2,146.74; and the new scholarship fund balance was \$4, 522.21. Payment to the Barkhamsted Historical Society for J. Davis is associated with Lighthouse grant. Payment to FRWA for WQ monitoring represents one-third of yearly billing costs for this project. Scholarship fund will soon be reduced by \$2,000 to cover the two scholarships awarded this evening. Fielding explained that although checking account balance is low, FRCC can borrow from Lower Farmington/Salmon Brook W&S Study to cover any necessary expenses until new funds from NPS arrive. This is possible because NPS funds are conveyed to the Farmington River as one “pot” which is then cooperatively split between the two groups.

5. Old Business:

Resource Stewardship – Anthony, Subcommittee Chair, led updates.

Vernal Pools – Caisse reported that she and Betsy Corrigan have finished surveying for the season, and are now in the process of writing up a report of this year's accomplishments. There are a few potential pools left to check on in each town (Colebrook, New Hartford, Canton) but most of the work is completed.

Invasive Plants Management Project – Caisse reported that she and Corrigan resumed work on the project today. In response to a question, Lacy indicated that we previously received a report from Corrigan for work completed last year.

Last week, knapweed was pulled at Greenwoods East.

Fielding said that FRWA has ordered several weed wrenches that would be available for loan to FRCC.

Water Quality Monitoring – On-going. Fielding reported that nothing unusual has been observed thus far.

It was noted that the Still River becomes very turbid after any kind of a rain event. This is not coming from Sandy Brook.

Still River Watershed Study – Sean Hayden, Northwest Conservation District (NCD), has asked their GIS staff for a map of sites on the Still River that could be remediated. Meanwhile, NCD is still waiting to hear back from the Town of Winchester DPW with regard to the proposed implementation projects.

The next Resource Stewardship meeting on July 11th (note date change) will focus on the Still River. FRCC would like to get a big picture overview of what is going on in the watershed.

Land Protection – Hartland Land Trust in moving forward with their project. They have apparently been able to put together some of their own funds to pay the surveyor up front, and will seek reimbursement from FRCC at a later date.

Greenwood Anglers Trail – Caisse, Anthony, and Don Mysling need to meet and go out in the field to determine next steps.

Mapping – Lacy is planning to get in touch with Jeff Bolton (FRWA) to discuss.

Mountain Road Project (Riverton) – Consulting design firm has drafted a preliminary plan. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) visited the site. ACOE permit triggers Sec. 7 of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act which allows NPS review of the project to make sure it is protective of outstanding resources values. Lacy is going to ask colleagues at the NPS to assist in review of the work prior to making comments for the ACOE permit. Unfortunately, the amount of federal funding available for the project falls short of what is actually needed to fix the problem. Lacy recapped drainage issue history and concerns.

In-River Patio Project (School St., Riverton) – Lacy and Don Stein had the ACOE visit site the School St rock wall and patio site. ACOE staff agreed that the project was a violation of regulations, definitely needed to go through a permitting process, and will be contacting the property owner. Lacy said ACOE action will trigger Sec. 7 of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act which will allow NPS review of the project. Town of Barkhamsted will be holding P&Z and IW commission hearings on the project in July. Sinish attended a recent meeting of P&Z. He thought there was some uncertainty with regard to how to apply the river corridor overlay district. Discussed CT DEP role with regard to project. Peterson reported that she had spoken with Inland Water Resource Division (IWRD) staff who said this was

a matter of local jurisdiction. Lacy suggested that CT DEP should have greater jurisdiction on a W&S river. Peterson offered to set up a meeting with IWRD staff if FRCC wishes to discuss further.

Education and Outreach – Sinish, SubCommittee Chair, led updates.

Newsletter – Articles due Aug. 12th. Sinish listed articles to be featured, including one to be written by Roberts on river management BMPs.

Kiosks – Santoro reformatting the list of who is in charge of kiosks. Lacy and Sinish developing list of kiosk-keeper tasks. Decision was made to not paint trim boards.

Open House – Scheduled for October 6th. Putting together a list of tasks. Collette Hurst, a local artist, has contacted Lacy about the event and will help recruit artists.

River Etiquette Package – Brochures have been distributed, and many compliments have been received. Due to budget constraints, there are no plans to print additional brochures at this time. Sinish had suggested the possibility of printing more brochures on regular paper, instead of special water resistant, tear-proof paper. However, Lacy said there was not much price difference.

Outings – A hike (TBD) is being planned prior to the July regular FRCC meeting. (Note – The July FRCC meeting may also feature a presentation on the USFS Highlands project.) August outing TBD.

Scholarships – Mission accomplished. Scholarships were awarded to two recipients earlier this evening.

Outreach to Town Boards, etc. – Lacy reiterated that it is important for Committee reps to reach out to their local committees and boards, especially given situations such as what has occurred at School St., Riverton (ie. - patio project).

Local Land Trust Support – Nothing to report.

River Rally – Lacy brought back a “challenge” from a workshop she attended at this year’s River Rally regarding improving communication. She noted that what we’re telling the world is important but is not effective if no one is hearing the message. Lacy is going to send out a list of questions for Committee member response. She would like to reintroduce “elevator speeches”, ie. - What can you tell people about FRCC while riding between 3 floors on the elevator?

Executive - Travis deferred to Lacy to provide report.

2011 Funding - Lacy reported that she is close to finalizing this year’s Cooperative Agreement modification with NPS regarding funding for this year. Funding is about \$51k. Next year’s budget has not been finalized yet and we are unlikely to know that amount until next spring or summer.

Management Plan Update – Not much to report. We discussed the possibility of conducting a customized carrying capacity analysis of our own for the update. It is possible that Kennedy Raymes could work on it for us.

6. New Business/Other

CT DEP Commissioner in Your Corner – Peterson mentioned CT DEP “Commissioner in Your Corner” event for Upper Farmington River scheduled for June 23, 2011 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., and also handed out flyers. Peterson thanked Sinish for willingness to represent FRCC at event since Lacy unavailable that day.

Junior River Rangers – Caisse requested help with the Junior River Rangers program on Sundays during the summer for two to four hours.

7. Town Reports

Canton – Roberts sent note to the Canton board working on revising the Plan of Conservation and Development, requesting that FRCC be included in the process.

New Hartford – Brief discussion regarding endorsing expansion of sewer line, and potential pros and cons.

8. Next meeting dates: FRCC: July 18, Aug. 15, ~~Sept. 19~~ (**Post meeting - Note – no Sept full committee meeting**); Subcommittees (by conference call): July 11 (please note date change from July 5), Aug. 1, ~~Sept. 5~~ (**Postmeeting - Note - will be changed to Sept 6**); Pre-meeting outings to be announced. FRCC Open House: Oct. 6.

9. Adjourn: 8:40 p.m. (Adjourned a little early due to mosquitoes and cooling temperatures.)

Postscript - During the meeting, a bald eagle was spotted flying over the reservoir. It was later seen returning with a fish.

