



**FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
100 East River Road – Squire’s Tavern  
P.O. Box 395  
Pleasant Valley, CT 06063  
860-379-0282 [www.farmingtonriver.org](http://www.farmingtonriver.org)

**Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting**  
**Monday, March 19, 2012**  
**Squire’s Tavern**  
**100 East River Road, Pleasant Valley**

**Present:** Tim Anthony (MDC Rep); Roger Behrens (Barkhamsted Alt); Eileen Fielding (FRWA Alt); Liz Lacy (NPS Alt/FRCC Director); Nicki Hall (Hartland Alt); Nick Masi (FRAA Rep); Susan Peterson (CT DEEP Rep/Secretary); Cherie Robinson (Canton Alt/Chair); Mario Santoro (Barkhamsted Rep); David Sinish (FRWA Rep); Tom Stanton (Colebrook Rep)

**Present (via conference call):** Edna Travis (Colebrook Alt/Vice Chair)

**Guest:** Alicea Charamut (Farmington Valley TU);

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
- 2. Approval of Minutes of January 30, 2012 meeting:** The minutes were approved with the following changes:
  - Under “Present” – “Nikki Hall” – Change “Nikki” to “Nicki”;
  - Under “Present” – “Cherie Robinson (Canton Alt/Vice Chair)” – Change “Vice Chair” to “Chair”;
  - Under “Present (via conference call)” – “Edna Travis (Colebrook Alt/Chair)” – Change “Chair” to “Vice Chair”;
  - Under “Treasurer’s Report” – Change new checking account balance from “\$2,405.43” to “\$2,405.33”;
  - Under “Executive” – “This Year’s Projects (2012)” – In second bullet regarding printing newsletter, change “\$12,000” to “\$1,200”;
  - Under “Executive” – “Grants” – “Lighthouse Brochure” – In first sentence, change “where” to “were”

**(the above items in “*italics*” were errors discovered after the meeting ...)**

- 3. Treasurer’s Report:** Fielding distributed copies of two reports. The first report, dated January 9, 2012, had been provided at the January “Outreach and Education” subcommittee meeting and was subsequently referenced at the January 30, 2012 full committee meeting but a copy of the report was not distributed. As of January 9, the new checking account balance was \$2,405.33 (note correction of amount under “Approval of Minutes of January 30, 2012 meeting” above); and the new scholarship fund balance was \$2,522.21.

As of the second report, dated March 15, 2012, the new checking account balance is \$25,366.95; and the new scholarship fund balance is \$2,522.21. A \$50,000 fund transfer was received from NPS. NPS would now like us to provide reports every 30 days if advance requesting less than \$100,000. Meeting this new requirement may be challenging for us. We have had to pay out a lot of bills quickly. As a result, the new balance is around \$27,000+. We still owe Betsy Corrigan payment. Lacy has a copy of Corrigan’s 2011 report. So, we can now pay her Nov/Dec invoice.

- 4. Old Business:**

**Resource Stewardship** – Anthony, SubCommittee Chair, led the updates:

Have had two meetings since the last full committee meeting.

**Still River** – Most recent time and emphasis has been spent on getting project back on track. There has been a difference of opinion on deliverables. At the April 3rd subcommittee meeting, all the principals – FRCC, FRWA, NCD - and others, met to review and discuss agreements, purpose, expectations and related activities of other agencies, and to assess information provided to date. Sean Hayden (NCD) has found funding for bmps which needs 25% match. Lacy asked if this has to be a non-federal match. Fielding didn’t know and said she would need to consult with Hayden.

**Vernal Pools** - Wood frogs started “quacking” last week ... Corrigan has been out. Letters are being sent to Colebrook landowners. Travis asked how much time Corrigan has left for project. Time geared to amount of funds remaining. Fielding said there is \$1,700 left. Lacy said Corrigan had stopped by today and seemed fine with current arrangements. Corrigan has tried to get some feedback from John Anderson (Aton Forest) but, so far, has not been successful. Behrens asked what Corrigan is going to do now. Fielding said that (potential) vernal pools have been identified on maps, and Corrigan is now field verifying them. Behrens asked if it might be too dry this year - some vernal pools have dried up. Fielding replied that this is an unusual year. There may need to be follow-up.

Anthony suggested that if can work with town inland wetland and conservation commissions, then perhaps they can encourage constituency to let Corrigan on to their properties to look. Landowners may be hesitant because of local regulations, etc.

#### **Water Quality** - On-going

**Invasive Plants Management Project** - We need to have Corrigan come and do a presentation. She has submitted a proposal for \$18,000 for 2012. However, Lacy said that we may only be able to fund \$15,000. Corrigan will be coming to April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. Lacy said the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation - CISMA grant has come through. However, funding is only half of what was expected. So, FRCC will be joining with Westfield Watershed WISP and the CT River Program to share a part-time position of approximately 30 hrs. Duties will focus on organizing a database of volunteers, organizing workshops, etc. Westfield WWISP is putting together a job description and will be advertising the position. FRCC will share a part of this grant-funded position.

**Education and Outreach** – Sinish, SubCommittee Chair, led the updates

**Didymo Brochures** – Sinish apologized that there was some confusion at the last meeting with regard to distribution of brochures. He had been participating in the meeting via conference call and it was often difficult to hear. Sinish asked Peterson to review the request. Peterson said she that the CT DEEP Inland Fisheries Division had requested assistance in distributing the brochures. Peterson said that she that the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Study Committee members were also helping to distribute brochures in the lower Farmington River towns. There are two towns that overlap between FRCC and the W&S Study Committee – Canton (which Peterson asked FRCC to cover) and Hartland (which Peterson asked the W&S Study Committee to cover). Peterson brought a box of (unfolded) brochures to the FRCC meeting to distribute, and committee members assisted in folding them during the meeting. Sinish circulated a sign-up sheet to distribute the brochures and also requested volunteers to drop off brochures at specific locations. Sinish said that the Didymo brochure has also been posted on the FRCC web page and Facebook. Peterson suggested kiosks as another possible location to post brochures.

Peterson also reported that Mike Beauchene (CT DEEP – Water Quality Monitoring & Assessment Program) had been out to check the river in January and February and had not seen any signs of Didymo. He will check the river again in March.

**Scholarship** – Changes are being made to the policy. These changes need to be formalized. Santoro said that he is planning to pass along scholarship information to Barkhamsted. Lacy and Robinson suggested that other FRCC reps share scholarship information with their towns.

**FRCC Sign** – It would be good to have a sign on the door of Squire’s Tavern for people to see when they come into the building. Lacy will be looking into this.

**Newsletter** – A decision was made to try doing a monthly e-newsletter which will be published mid-month. A post card will be sent to all riverfront landowners.

**River Etiquette Package** – It was agreed to print approximately 1,000 new maps. Lacy was waiting to hear back on an estimate from the printers. Charamut said TU would like to participate in some cost-sharing because they would like 500 copies. She said that this might allow FRCC to boost the number of maps they will be able to print. Sinish said he had received an estimate in January 2012 of \$806 for 1,000 maps and \$865 for 1,500 maps. Lacy asked how many maps would we be able to buy for \$1,000? Maps would be printed on heavy weight but not waterproof paper.

**Fred Jones’ Photo Poster of Five Towns of Upper Farmington W&S Area** – It was suggested by an attendee at the Open House that every town hall should have one of these photo posters. We would want to give the posters to the towns already framed. A nice framing job will cost a bit.

**Social Media** – Santoro will be working with Lacy on this aspect of outreach. Santoro said that we need people to “like” our Facebook page.

**Farmington River W&S Brochure** – Lacy said it is time to update these brochures with current information including website, etc. Sinish said that this should be discussed at the next subcommittee meeting.

**Executive** Robinson, Subcommittee Chair, led the updates

The subcommittee met today and Joyce Kennedy Raymes was present.

**Management Plan Update** – Kennedy Raymes has been working with Lacy, Fielding and Anthony. On April 30<sup>th</sup>, Kennedy Raymes and Fielding will give a presentation. There will be a rough draft to distribute and a marked up version will also be available to show changes that have been made to date. Town representatives will then be able to provide this draft to their respective towns, and ask for comment; Likewise, for CT DEEP and MDC representatives and their respective agencies. A date will be set for responding with comments. By the end of the summer, we will be able to send out a RFP to print the draft revised plan so that it will be available to distribute at the Open House. This will not be the final document. There will still be opportunity to comment. Approximately \$5,000 has been set aside for printing.

## 5. New Business/Other

**New Home Construction Near River in Barkhamsted** - Sinish noted that a new house is being constructed in Barkhamsted just off of Route 44 on Route 181, near Greenwoods. It appears to be close to the river. Is there any information on this construction? Lacy said that she was contacted when the project went through permitting. She said that the footprint of the building is supposed to be set back 100 feet from the river. Sinish wondered whether the footprint includes the porch off the back of the house? Santoro and Behrens said they would check with Barkhamsted town officials. Apparently, this new dwelling will be a bed and breakfast operation.

**GIS Mapping** – Santoro noted that a UConn CLEAR webinar on GIS was coming up.

## 6. Town (and Other Committee Member) Reports

**Barkhamsted** – Behrens said that a new proposal for roads had been brought up at a recent zoning commission meeting. Private roads were voted down with very little or no discussion. Don’t know how this may impact shared driveways. Zoning had been planning to do something through special exceptions with regard to shared driveways because they are a good LID technique. This had been attached to LID package but because it was controversial, it had been separated out. A “no loitering” ordinance was also voted down.

Although not within the Upper Farmington W&S area, Behrens noted that both the Barkhamsted and Granby conservation commissions were concerned about the breached dam at Enders Pond in Enders State Forest off of Route 219. It was his understanding that the State was going to repair the dam but hasn’t. He asked Peterson if she was familiar with the site but she said she wasn’t. Behrens said that there is concern about siltation and erosion - including erosion off of the road and how this might affect water quality in the Lower Farmington River.

**Canton** – Robinson reported that there will be an Open House on April 5<sup>th</sup> at Roaring Brook Nature Center for the new Farmington River exhibit. The Canton Land Trust will be having their annual meeting with a speaker on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Sinish said that he spoke with Canton Land Trust representatives regarding the watershed trail signage and they seemed very pleased with the grant they had received from FRCC to do this project.

**Colebrook** – Stanton said that they are starting to replace the bridge on the lower road that crosses Sandy Brook. There had been emergency repairs up on Mill Brook Road where three bridges went out as a result of the hurricane. Fielding asked if they were referring to the CT (**E&S?**) guidelines, and Stanton said “yes”.

**New Hartford** – Neither Alison Murdock nor Mark Lindquist were present, and they may not be able to attend meetings for awhile. Lindquist had unexpected surgery. Committee members discussed sending something to Lindquist to let him know that we are thinking of him during his recovery.

**FRAA** – Masi reported FRAA recently put FRCC on their website under “affiliates”. Lacy suggested that they also include information regarding FRAA representation on FRCC, and list FRAA reps by name.

**FRWA** – Fielding reported that they are currently getting water quality data analyzed. Education programs getting up and running. Benefit program coming up featuring dance company performing “Water Wars”. Are hopeful that the removal of Spoonville Dam will soon get underway. Have most of funds needed, and contractors are standing by. Unfortunately, did not receive the \$150,000 from American Rivers for which they had applied. However, they are still waiting to hear on other grant decisions. Have received funding for modifying Winchell Smith Dam (**sp?**) in Farmington for fish passage. Have proposed to construct rock ramp (rather than removing dam). FRWA was invited and recently attended an “invitation only” conference on “America’s Great Outdoors” in Washington, D.C. Lacy noted that Fielding is currently serving as president on the board of Rivers Alliance of Connecticut.

**CT DEEP** – Peterson mentioned several grant opportunities currently available through CT DEEP or other entities, including: 319 Nonpoint Source Management Grant Program (through CT DEEP); Watershed Assistance Small Grants Program (through Rivers Alliance of Connecticut); Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program (through CT DEEP); and Long Island Futures Fund (through National Fish and Wildlife Foundation).

**MDC** – Anthony discussed water availability with regard to flow regulation on the West Branch of the Farmington River, in light of the relatively dry winter and spring conditions we have been experiencing. He said that the Colebrook Reservoir is at a “happy spring full” – although water not overabundant and was being controlled. Since there was no snow pack this past winter, Anthony said that it was fortunate that they hung onto the flood waters from Hurricane Irene, etc. This helped with water release last week when only a portion of the Otis flow occurred. As for the forecast – who knows? Anthony also noted that water was being controlled at Lake McDonough and Saville Dam due to some construction projects currently underway. Nepaug Reservoir is full and spilling.

Fielding said that they may want to have a lower release in July if Spoonville Dam removal project gets underway. Anthony said that Laura Wildman (Princeton Hydro) had been in touch but he is waiting to hear back from her on details. Fielding said FRWA has to start one of the grants this summer but can only work in the river at certain times. She was not able to say when the in-river work would start. Anthony also commented that DEEP permits do not provide much guidance to dam operators.

**NPS** – Lacy said that she has received a thick, three phase plan on the Mountain Road project that she must review and comment on. Many good changes had been made in the plans based on conversations throughout the design process. She said that if anyone else was interested in reviewing the plan to let her know. Lenard Engineering from Winsted put a lot of effort in on this project. Travis congratulated Lacy on all of the hard work she has put in on this issue. Anthony asked how far the \$500,000 grant will go. Lacy said that the funds will cover the plans, permitting and some work. Additional funding will need to be sought for further implementation.

## 7. Next meeting dates:

- **Full Committee:** April 30 (Note – This will be a long meeting as both Corrigan and Kennedy Raymes will be giving presentations); May 21
- **SubCommittees** (by conference call unless otherwise noted):
  - **E&O** – April 2 @ 7:00 p.m.; May 7 @ 7:00 p.m.
  - **RS** – April 3 @ 4:00 p.m. @ Squire’s; May 8 @ 4:00 p.m.

Sinish said that he is looking for volunteers for the E&O subcommittee. Lacy suggested that Masi, the new FRAA rep, choose a subcommittee on which to serve. Masi said he would volunteer for E&O.

Lacy requested that if anyone has good ideas for outings (prior to summer full committee meetings) to please let her know. Corrigan would like to bring committee members to some of the invasive plant eradication sites she has been working on.

## 8. Adjourn: 8:52 p.m.