



**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)

**Approved Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting**  
**Monday, October 17, 2011**  
**Squire’s Tavern**  
**100 East River Road, Pleasant Valley**

**Present:** Tim Anthony (MDC Rep); Roger Behrens (Barkhamsted Alt); Liz Lacy (NPS Alt/FRCC Director); Alison Murdock (New Hartford Rep); Susan Peterson (CT DEEP Rep/Secretary); Cherie Robinson (Canton Alt/Vice Chair); Mario Santoro (Barkhamsted Rep); David Sinish (FRWA Rep); Edna Travis (Colebrook Alt/Chair)

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

Lacy welcomed Charamut and invited her to attend regular FRCC meetings whenever she is able.

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Travis called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. **Introductions:** FRCC members introduced themselves for Charamut.
3. **Approval of Minutes of August 15, 2011 meeting:** The minutes were approved with the following changes:
  - Under “Town Reports” – “Barkhamsted” – Anthony did not say landing was a “PR stunt”. He said the site landing was for National Guard PR. Language should be revised to reflect this.
  - Under “Town Reports” – “Canton” – Change “Committee” to “Commission”; Strike the word “happily”.
  - Under “New Business/Other” – In the “Notes from Communication Plan discussion 8/15/2011” – Paragraph 9 - Strike “austerity of the”; Paragraph 11 – Change “when he was first here (year??)” to “the early days”. Lacy said she would go through the “Notes” again and also format sections better.
4. **Treasurer’s Report:** Fielding was not present but the Committee reviewed the report that had been submitted and distributed as a handout. As of October 8, 2011, the new checking account balance was \$17,538.86; and the new scholarship fund balance was \$2,522.21. It was noted that money had been received from NPS and FRCC was able to reimburse the Lower Farmington W&S Study Committee for funds borrowed.

5. **Old Business:**

**Resource Stewardship** Anthony, SubCommittee Chair, led the updates.

**-Invasive Plants Management Project** – Betsy Corrigan has been working hard on MDC lands and in other locations on stilt grass burns, knapweed pulls, etc. Corrigan owes FRCC a report on her activities.

Charamut said that if volunteers are needed, she could put a notice in the TU newsletter to let members know. FRCC members appreciated the offer and agreed that this would be helpful.

Anthony noted that the goats (brought to Squires site to eat invasives) were interesting to have at the Open House.

Lacy said that the grant she had been working on with the Conte Wildlife Refuge had just been submitted. We should find out by mid-winter if we got the grant. If awarded, we would get the services of a part-time volunteer coordinator.

Lacy also noted that a new intern from Westfield State – Jessica Applin - will be helping FRCC with outreach & communication, a volunteer database, etc.

Travis mentioned that Corrigan was interested in finding out if MDC would be receptive to having goats on their property. Travis has spoken to Carol Youell, and would be like to pursue the idea further.

Lisa (goat owner) may be looking for some publicity in association with the work her goats are doing.

Robinson inquired how her wine – made from the fruit of invasive Autumn Olive – was received at the Open House. It was observed that people initially tried it because they were curious ... but then came back for more because they enjoyed it!

Peterson joked that FRCC should sponsor an “invasives cook-off”.

**-Still River** - No update. Should have more information by early next month.

**-Water Quality** – On-going.

**-Land Protection** – There are no funds currently available. However, FRCC has been approached with a request by the Winchester Land Trust.

**-Vernal Pools** – Waiting for Corrigan’s report. Jeff Bolton of FRWA is mapping findings.

**-Greenwood Anglers Trail** – Project has not moved forward. Anthony is waiting for shipment of sign posts. Because of reduced budget, were not able to produce as many signs as would have liked.

Charmut has been thinking of doing an article in the TU newsletter about riparian awareness. This project might provide a good article along those lines.

**-Mapping** – Lacy said a list of maps that would be appropriate for the Management Plan Update has been assembled. So far, have draft base map of Upper Farmington W&S area and land cover map.

**-Mountain Road** – Lacy is planning to meet with NRCS, et al. soon. NRCS received a one year extension on funding. Lacy said NPS was able to get NRCS to agree to cascade design rather than chute, and use of more native vegetation.

**Education and Outreach** Sinish, Subcommittee Chair, led the updates

**-Open House** – Sinish thanked everyone who helped out and made the Open House a terrific event.

**-Kiosks** – Sinish said that he may take an afternoon and just clean all of them. He thinks it would be better to do this before the end of the season.

**-Maps** – Sinish keeps getting requests for more maps. Lacy is going to take a look at prices. Charamut said Farmington Valley TU would like 500 maps for new member packets, etc. Sinish would like to have 5,000 printed. He noted that they don’t necessarily have to be printed on waterproof paper.

**-Communication Suggestions** – Need to get together and act on suggestions. Lacy is hoping that the new intern will be able to help with this. Need to have work session at next O&E subcommittee meeting to discuss.

Charamut mentioned that her organization uses “Constant Connect” and they love it. Lacy explained that FRCC has an account but doesn’t have the e-mail database to plug into it (only have mailing addresses). But will investigate whether FRCC could use it.

Behrens asked about putting things on town websites. Lacy would like to have intern look into this.

In the meantime, we need to clarify FRCC’s message. Travis mentioned Don Stein’s comment about FRCC’s name. It points out that members of the public are not clear about what FRCC does. Peterson asked about putting something in the Lower Farmington W&S bill to change the FRCC name. Lacy said that she could look into it. However, Lacy also suggested that we need to teach people what “FRCC” means.

**Executive** Travis, Chair, led the updates with Lacy.

**-Management Plan Update** – On hold. Did not meet today.

**-Preparation for Election of Officers** – The Executive Committee functions as the nominating committee. Travis’ term is up (2 years), so will need a new chair.

**-Preparation for Planning Next Year’s Projects** – Lacy has put an inquiry into NPS about the amount of funding FRCC might expect to receive next year. This information would help us to plan better, especially if the funding limited. Lacy suggested modifying FRCC’s fiscal year (ie. – summer start), so we will start out knowing how much money we have for the year. Perhaps we “coast” a bit until the funding catches up with us, and then we can start a new fiscal year? It is hard to plan when we don’t know how much funding we will be receiving.

**-Grants** – Travis had questions about status of certain projects previously awarded grants.

- **Miner Lane – Stormwater Retrofit (Barkhamsted)** – This project is finished. Lacy did a site visit but would like to get Sean Hayden (NCD) out to look at the site. Santoro is concerned about invasives that he noticed when happened to pass by the site. Lacy suggested this be discussed at next Resource Stewardship Subcommittee meeting. It was also suggested that the committee make a site visit. It was noted that FRCC only paid for a certain component of the retrofit, so we can’t really “nit pick”.
- **Sandy Brook Natural Area Management Plan** – Travis said that the Colebrook Land Conservancy is wondering what FRCC would like to do with regard to “next steps”.

## 6. New Business/Other

**-“West Branch River Aquifer Source Water Protection Plan” (December 2010)** – Behrens brought this report to the attention of the group. The plan was done by Marc Cohen of the Atlantic State Rural Water and Wastewater Association. Behrens felt the report might provide some useful educational information.

**-Morgan Brook** – Peterson said the Northwest Conservation District (NCD), under a CWA Sec. 319 project grant through CT DEEP, recently submitted a draft watershed based plan for Morgan Brook. CT DEEP has reviewed and commented on the draft plan. When the project is finalized, NCD should be in touch with FRCC to offer a presentation on the project, which is a requirement of the grant contract.

**-Didymo** – Peterson reported that Nancy Murray in the CT DEEP Inland Fisheries Division has spoken with her about requesting help from Farmington River groups with regard to education and outreach concerning Didymo. This should be discussed at the next Resource Stewardship meeting. Sinish expressed interest in being copied on information concerning this topic, and indicated that this might be a good activity for the Outreach & Education Subcommittee to undertake.

## 7. Town Reports

**-Canton** – Sinish said that the Town is currently doing a study of Mill Pond (behind Collinsville Dam) and is considering dredging. Some sediment testing has been done and the cores came back really clean. The Mill Pond is located about a mile downstream of the Upper Farmington W&S designated area – so, this is good news. Dredging would make the Mill Pond more conducive to recreation.

**-Barkhamsted** – Lacy said that repair of a section of river bank along West River Road after Hurricane Irene was supposedly done according to FRCC recommendations. Rich Novak, head of the Town of Barkhamsted – Highway Department, had contacted Lacy for input. There was a window of opportunity that the Army Corps of Engineers granted Towns to fix areas such as this without having to go through the usual permitting process. Lacy has not had a chance to check out the repair work yet. Anthony noted that the repair work was done on a Saturday while MDC held back water.

**-Colebrook** – Travis raised the Still River siltation issue for discussion. She is concerned about just letting the issue drop. She would like to hear more from CT DEEP on the matter. Lacy reported that Don Mysling had visited the site and found no evidence of damage from the sediment release. Lacy said that she has correspondence from Art Christian, Don Mysling and Tim Barry regarding the site visit. Art Christian, Supervisor of the CT DEEP Dam Safety Program, would be one of the appropriate staff to speak with for further information. It was determined that the Robertsville Dam in a non-FERC hydropower operation. Lacy recommended that the Town come up with a list of questions and/or requests to pursue. FRCC has no direct jurisdiction with regard to this – can only assist the town with guidance.

8. **Next meeting dates:** FRCC: Nov. 21, Dec. 19 Holiday Gathering, Jan. 30 (combined Jan./Feb. meeting); Subcommittees (by conference call unless otherwise noted): Nov. 7, Dec. 5, Jan. 9, Feb. 13.

Is anyone interested in hosting the holiday party?

(Please note that some of the meeting dates listed above have been modified from what was listed on the October 17, 2011 meeting agenda.)

9. **Adjourn:** 8:50 p.m.