



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

**Approved Minutes of Regular FRCC Meeting
Monday, January 30, 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 (new FRAA Rep); Susan Peterson (CT DEEP Rep/Secretary); Paul Pinette (FRAA Alt); Cherie Robinson (Canton Alt/Chair); Mario Santoro (Barkhamsted Rep);

Present (via conference call): David Sinish (FRWA Rep); Edna Travis (Colebrook Alt/Vice-chair); (Note – both had trouble hearing meeting conversation, at times)

Guest: Alicea Charamut (Farmington Valley TU);

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.
- 2. Introductions:** Robinson asked Nick Masi, the new FRAA Rep, to introduce himself. Then Robinson asked the rest of the FRCC members around the table to introduce themselves. Pinette will now be an FRAA Alt.
- 3. Approval of Minutes October 2011 and December 2011 meetings:** The minutes for both meetings were approved without changes.
- 4. Treasurer’s Report:** Fielding did not have a handout but referred to a report made to the Outreach & Education Subcommittee a couple of weeks ago. The only difference between the two reports is a couple of checks. As of January 9, the new checking account balance was \$2,405.33; and the new scholarship fund balance was \$2,522.21. Fielding will circulate a copy of report to Committee members.
- 5. Old Business:**

Resource Stewardship - Anthony, Subcommittee Chair, led the updates:

Mapping – The Subcommittee met January 10, 2012 with Jeff Bolton (FRWA – GIS). Bolton presented new maps he has developed for the management plan update which display various natural resource and geographic information. Lacy passed out a copy of the recently produced Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan (June 2011) so that people could see maps that Bolton produced for that report. The Subcommittee discussed layouts, etc. and provided input on the work in progress.

The status of other 2011 projects were also discussed with regard to the balance of funds remaining (below) ...

Invasive Plants Management Project (as well as Vernal Pools) – Need input from Betsy Corrigan on work done and payments due to inform budget for 2012. Lacy said that Corrigan is still finishing up report

on invasives work for this past season and is working on a proposal for the coming year. Corrigan submitted a final bill for invasives work.

Vernal Pools – Fielding and Corrigan need to talk. They had a three-way e-mail conversation with Travis regarding what is to happen in Colebrook. Still need to agree on what her work is going to be based on (ie. – aerials, etc.). Fielding and Bolton may need to work out what she will use. Travis would like her to use certain information from John Anderson (Aton Forest). Corrigan had been ground-truthing Bolton's information. Perhaps Corrigan, Bolton and Anderson need to get together to look at aerial maps and talk. It was noted that if we want Corrigan to go beyond what she was contracted to do, then we would need to set up a new contract. Can only do so much with regard to interpreting aerials and then ground-truthing. However, Anderson may be able to contribute to the discussion to help move through the project more quickly. Travis will send e-mail summary to Fielding for her to circulate. There is currently \$5,700 outstanding for this project.

Still River – No update

Water Quality – On-going

Land Protection – No report

Greenwood Anglers Trail – Signage has been produced. They are rough-cut metal signs. Anthony is concerned that people could injure themselves on them. He is going to stop by the sign company to try to address the situation.

Education and Outreach Sinish, Subcommittee Chair, led the updates

The Subcommittee met January 9, 2012.

Newsletter – The Subcommittee discussed to an e-newsletter format. FRCC seems to have an adequate number of e-mail addresses and can seek to add more. Can also encourage recipients to pass e-newsletter along to their own distribution lists. Consider using "Constant Contact". Need to discuss frequency of distribution. Fielding recommended that it would be good not to eliminate paper newsletters entirely. Lacy is going to be taking a one-day seminar on using "Constant Contact" in Farmington. FRCC Intern, Jessica, has created a draft postcard that can be sent to property owners. FRCC probably has enough money to do this. Charamut said that it is difficult to print out newsletter from "Constant Contact" because the format is very different. Others felt that some (older) folks may still prefer receiving a paper copy in the mail. Lacy said that the Annual Report will still come out in hard copy. Charamut said that TU Chapter member participation increased 10-25% since they started using "Constant Contact." Charamut has also been uploading a pdf of newsletter into "Constant Contact", so you can still print one out. Lacy said she wouldn't have time to do a separate "paper" newsletter. Santoro said that FRCC should leverage whatever it does so that it can be used in multiple formats.

Website – It would be good to have people (ie. - friends, relatives, others) look at the website and provide feedback on how well it works/flows. Santoro suggested that we also ask people what they "expect" of the website, before they even see it. However, have to tell them what "FRCC" is – first. Fielding said that need to distinguish FRCC from FRWA. Sinish remarked that he has his daughter (who is an environmental scientist) looking at the website. Sinish said he would appreciate others also looking at it.

Kiosks – Currently in winter hibernation.

Open House – Sinish said he was pleased with the good turn-out. However, there was a "glitch" with regard to the publicity that needs to be addressed. The next Open House will be October 4, 2012.

Outreach to Town Boards, etc. – It is important that everyone reach out to the groups that they are representing. Sinish said that a description of job duties is going to be recirculated. Committee members were also reminded that Lacy has a Power Point presentation.

River Etiquette Package – We have run out of copies of map brochure. They have been very helpful and well received. Lacy to get prices on re-printing.

Other – On behalf of CT DEEP colleagues in the Inland Fisheries Division, Peterson requested FRCC's help with education outreach regarding Didymo. It is getting to be that time of year when Didymo "blooms". Peterson said she would send an e-mail with pdf of, and also weblink to, CT DEEP Didymo brochure. Peterson brought a limited number of paper copies to the meeting for FRCC members to distribute. She said that she can get more copies of the brochure. Peterson also plans to reach out to FRWA and the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook W&S Study Committee to ask for help with Didymo education outreach. FRCC suggested Roaring Brook Nature Center and CT DEEP Burlington Fish Hatchery as a couple of good locations to drop off flyers. Also, FRAA could help distribute to fly shops.

Executive Robinson, Chair, led the updates:

Management Plan Update – As of today, Joyce Kennedy Raymes is back on board to work on management plan update. (NPS approved funding her part-time for a year.) Discussed items still need to update. Targeting to distribute a final draft to the public by October 4th Open House. Will be reviewing where we are on a monthly basis. We may need to set aside a meeting to review the final draft before it is presented at the Open House. The next full committee meeting is in March. Perhaps we could have an overview presentation then? Anthony said the sooner his own Agency (MDC) is able to look at the document (for internal review), the better. We would also be looking for comments on the final draft at the Open House.

Election of Officers for 2012 (By-laws and Secretary position) – At the December 19, 2011 meeting, a slate of officers was elected. Peterson was elected to continue as Secretary. Robinson read language that Lacy pulled from by-laws. (See "December 20, 2011 - Follow-up" at end of December 19, 2011 meeting minutes for exact language.) Basically, by-laws say that officers – except for treasurer – can only serve two successive years. Peterson has completed two year term as Secretary (2010 & 2011). The Executive Committee had a discussion with Peterson and she indicated that she would be willing to continue with Secretary duties for another year. As it probably wouldn't be a good idea to change the by-laws, it was decided, instead, to bring it up for a vote at the full Committee meeting with regard to Peterson continuing as Secretary. All unanimously voted to support this decision. Therefore, Peterson will continue for another year as Secretary.

This Year's Projects (2012) - Lacy distributed handout of "Draft FRCC Annual Work Plan and Budget – FY 2012 (Jan. – Dec.)". She said FRCC could receive as much as \$78,000. However, there has been an across-the-board reduction and it may go down to around \$73,000. Lacy said she would walk Committee members through plan/budget items under remaining 2011 funds, and possible 2012 funds. Items discussed included the following:

- Lacy noted that we will be getting some part-time assistance through Silvio Conte National Wildlife Refuge for invasives coordination.
- Sinish asked about the estimated cost of printing newsletter. Lacy said she came up with approximately \$1,200, based on cost of last one (\$831 for 500 copies) plus previous bill from Mary Crombie for layout, etc. (\$455).
- Decided to add \$500 to 2012 budget for more etiquette brochures (ie. – 1,000). Took this from "extra" money shown at bottom of 2012 budget.
- There was a question about the Communication Plan. Sinish said that have put this in updated management plan because feels we need to do more communication. Sinish has been consulting with someone and getting guidance.

- \$5,000 has been set aside for Management Plan Update printing, etc. May need more money for this.
- Lacy said that do not need to vote on plan/budget tonight. A few items are still in flux, and we won't be getting the funds any time soon.
- Behrens inquired about the \$1,500 set aside for water quality monitoring. This is for the regular FRWA monitoring. Masi asked if this data was "viewable". Fielding said "yes" but FRWA website about to be updated. Lacy said she could forward reports to Masi. Masi said he was interested in sharing information with FRAA members. It was noted that MDC runs the samples collected by FRWA free of charge, as an in-kind service.
- Behrens also asked about the \$15,000 set aside for invasives. Lacy explained that the initial invasives survey was for a 14-mile stretch of river. Corrigan is entering her third year on the project and is now in invasives management "mode", working with volunteers. Behrens said he requested the explanation because it seems like a lot of money and he didn't understand the full scope of the project.

Grants – An update on some projects:

- Lighthouse Brochure – Copies of the "Barkhamsted Lighthouse Trail" brochure were distributed to Committee members. This was produced by the Barkhamsted Historical Society with support of FRCC and others.
- Sandy Brook Natural Area Management Plan – Peterson said that she had spoken with Nancy Murray at CT DEEP about whether she had heard from the Colebrook Land Conservancy (CLC) about the management plan they produced. Murray said she had not received anything and had not heard from CLC in about a year. Travis said that CLC wants to get the Town's approval before presenting the management plan to CT DEEP. Peterson requested that when CLC is ready forward management plan to CT DEEP, to please contact Murray. Peterson said she can provide Murray's contact information, if needed.

6. New Business/Other

TU Project – Charamut said that TU met with MDC (Carol Youell) about planting some American Elms at Greenwoods. Charamut wanted to check with FRCC to make sure this isn't a problem and wouldn't interfere with the invasives management work that Corrigan is doing. Lacy suggested that TU speak directly with Corrigan.

Artificial Flushing Flow – Lacy noted that at the last Resource Stewardship meeting, they discussed an "artificial flushing flow" project being considered by the CT DEEP Inland Fisheries Division in a low flow area below Greenwoods. The goal of the project is to loosen sediments and create habitat for spawning brook trout. The project is in a very preliminary stage. Lacy didn't think it would be something FRCC would oppose. The project would be located in a portion of river that isn't able to flush itself. Similar types of projects have been done in rivers out West. It was suggested that perhaps Neal Hagstrom (CT DEEP Inland Fisheries Division) come and speak about it at an upcoming meeting. He has already spoken to FRAA.

Mountain Road/Riverton – Peterson attended the NRCS/CT DEEP Quarterly Meeting on January 24, 2012 and heard an update on the Mountain Road/Riverton project. NRCS reported that Lenard Engineering is finishing up the design and permit applications. NRCS was expecting these materials to be submitted this week.

Farmington River Enhancement Grants – Peterson said that MaryAnn Nusom Haverstock (CT DEEP) who oversaw the this grant project with Farmington watershed municipalities is potentially available to come to a future FRCC meeting and provide a presentation (perhaps with a town planner) to discuss what the various municipalities accomplished.

CT DEEP Streamflow Regulations – Charamut asked how the stream classifications per the new streamflow regulations would affect the Farmington River. Given that MDC has a pre-existing flow agreement, Fielding speculated that things probably would not change much.

Invasives Coordinator – Lacy mentioned that FRCC will be looking to hire a very part-time invasives coordinator with funding from a grant from the National Wildlife Foundation. The focus for the coordinator will be community involvement.

7. Town Reports

Town Annual Reports – Lacy said that she is looking to get FRCC “blurbs” into the annual reports for towns within the Upper Farmington W&S area. Lacy heard back from Bill Roberts (Canton). However, the deadline for other towns has probably passed by now. If unable to do, please let Lacy know so that she can pursue and boost FRCC presence.

Barkhamsted – LID recommendations are making their way through the commissions. Seems to be more acceptable this time around – seen as benefit, if done properly. Also, the Conservation Commission is meeting Wednesday to finalize the Town’s aquifer protection plan. Peterson asked if the Town had any Aquifer Protection Areas (ie. – public water supply serving > 1,000). Barkhamsted reps said, “no”, this is just a local plan.

Canton – The upper Collinsville impoundment study identified a possible public launch by the Town Garage, and the press was all over it. Sinish said he sits on the implementation committee. There is not a lot that FRCC can say. The impoundment is not located in either the Upper Farmington W&S area, nor the proposed Lower Farmington W&S area.

Colebrook – Travis said she had nothing to report.

Hartland – Hall said that they need another rep for FRCC.

New Hartford – No one present.

Barkhamsted Reservoir – Robinson shared an article on the history and architecture of the Barkhamsted Reservoir that was in the CT Trust for Historic Preservation newsletter.

8. **Next meeting dates** – FRCC: March 19, April 16, May 21; Subcommittee meetings (by conference call unless otherwise noted): E/O – Feb. 13, Mar. 5; R.S – Feb. 14 (4:00 p.m.); Mar. 6 (2:00 p.m.)

9. **Adjourn:** 9:09 p.m.