

**DEERFIELD RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: Monday, January 15, 2024 **TIME:** 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

LOCATION: Google Meet this month.

	Bruce Lessels	x	Chris Bathurst
x	Charlie Olchowski	x	Ryan O'Donnell
x	David Boles	x	Sheila Kelliher
x	Jim Perry	x	Terry Atkinson
x	Chris Curtis		Patrick McCoy

Special Guests:

- **Jack Widness** - VT Representative (**Not Present**)
- **(Special Guest) Nina Gordon-Kirsch** - River Steward, Massachusetts•Connecticut River Conservancy (Present)

PURPOSE: Regular Monthly Meeting – **Please let Jim know if you cannot attend.**

LIST OF TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED

--Call to order

--Review past minutes – **December 18, 2023** **Vote to Consider Approval** (Jim Perry)

--Identify **New Agenda Items** not included in this proposed agenda.

Leadership Report -

- **President's Report:** (Jim Perry – President)
 - **Visioning Session** Pot-Luck Our Visioning Session is set for **Monday, January 29th at 6pm at the CRC offices in Greenfield...** If you are sick, feel free to attend via Google Meet (Chris C)
 - **Nina Gordon-Kirsch** - River Steward, Massachusetts•Connecticut River Conservancy *Worked with Ryan on H2O monitoring last year. Some things on her docket: continuing tracking 'FERC relicensing; looking up more information to disseminate info on CSO's (combined sewage overflows); and more. Jim offered a tour to see some of the hotspots along the watershed.*

Education	Terry Atkinson	Terry
Membership & Community Outreach	Sheila K (Instagram) with Jim P (Newsletters) and Ryan O (Facebook) <i>Need a Membership Lead.</i>	Jim P Also Sheila K, Ryan O
Science	Terry A - General David B - Salt	Terry A, David B
VT Northern Watershed Liaison	Jack W	Jack W
Dam Relicensing	Bruce L	Bruce L
Mass Rivers Alliance	Chris B	Chris, Chris C offers to help
Trails & Trail Maintenance	Chris C, Chris B, Jim P	Chris C, Chris B, Jim P

- *Jim P says he hasn't heard anything from Jim Boehmer recently on road salt. Jim B was talking about working on a salt video and might be looking for funding. Jim P would like to reconnect with Jim B. Jim P will get Jim B's contact information to David B so that David can contact Jim B.*
- *Slate of Officers approved.*
- *Slate of Team Leaders approved.*
- **Watershed Projects:**
 - Northern Watershed Update - Update on what types of issues and actions are occurring in the Vermont end of the Deerfield River watershed. (Jack Widness' report via email)
 - *Jack will DEFINITELY be at the January 29 in person strategic planning meeting in Greenfield. Jack will be there to present the \$500 check for Wild and Scenic— and take photos.*
 - *The wake boat situation in Vermont has reached a critical point with the end of the petition process in sight. It will be reviewed by the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules on February 1. This group will decide whether the petition process was done correctly, i.e., as specified by the legislature in their statutory rulemaking. At this moment, Jack does not know what the outcome of this is going to be. Things are happening fast and furiously at the moment. It is anyone's guess.*

- Franklin County Rivers Source to Sea Cleanup (formerly, The Green River Cleanup) and the Greenfield City Cleanup. – Status Update. (David Boles, Charlie Olchowski)
 - Outlook for 2024 due to extensive Green River Flooding? *Jim asks David about the massive amount of flooding shown on drone footage on Facebook. David says a lot of homeless encampments were partly destroyed, feels we need to do reconnaissance. Work done during the cleanup has likely had setbacks due to the flooding, per Jim P. David B thinks that getting out on the river in canoes/kayaks would be a good idea. He has seen Green River Park become a receptacle for a lot of debris. See **Eyes Above Franklin County, MA** on Facebook for aerial video footage of damage from Green River flooding.*
 - *Charlie says just before First Light pulled the boom off above the dam, he mentioned the problem of debris above the dam that had been lingering all summer.*
 - *David mentions probably doing blue bag cleanup again in April.*
- Green River Festival - (Patrick)
 - Anything to report?
- Deerfield and lower Connecticut Tactical Basin Plan (Ryan O)
 - The update of the Deerfield and lower Connecticut Tactical Basin Plan is being developed with an informational kick-off meeting on January 24th. Windham Regional Commission is hosting the meeting. Who would like to attend and help guide the new plan's content? *Ryan helps with the plan but probably can't go to meeting. VT has a very efficient basin plan, unlike MA. States his monitoring is a part of this. State of VT is split up into basins eg. Basin 12 is the Green River and Deerfield River in VT ending at the state line. They identify funding projects to include in the Tactical Basin Plan. Ryan thinks there is a Zoom option. Ryan is very familiar with the basin plan, in case everyone has questions.. He thinks Jack will attend; Jim will attend.*
 - Anything to report? *No major updates per Ryan. 2023 Data went to EPA. Waiting on VT nutrient data for his 2023 Annual Report.*
- Wild & Scenic Rivers – Status. Next steps. (Chris Curtis with Charlie Olchowski and Patrick McCoy) *No news from Congress re: study bill. We did sign onto "Dear Colleague" letter to submit with other rivers to be considered through Wild & Scenic River Coalition to go through Congress. DC Hill Week in March that Chris C can't attend, but will follow for the*

information. Heard from **Andy Fiske**, who is interested in Wild & Scenic and wants to meet with Chris.

- *3 Part Strategy: 1) Blend moneys from Woodlands Partnership grant and request National Park Service Reconnaissance study, & DRWA funds to fund the full study. Met with **Shayna Stewart Deeds**, expert on W&S projects who frequently works as a consultant to the National Park Service and a prof of Ecology at Bowdoin College in Maine, wrote a management plan for the Mississquoi, and Chris hopes she will collaborate with him.*
- *Contracting process: **Sheila K** wants to know if there is permission required from CRC and a vote by DRWA or the CRC Board to commit funds to a W&SR study; Chris thinks the full study (rather than just a reconnaissance study) through Park Service approach will help expedite things by having a full eligibility study combined with a management plan for the project. Sheila K wonders if there are thresholds of requirements for eligibility to have a project brought to a vote. Ron has the most experience with contracting for restoration. Chris C would be interested in joining a potential meeting with CRC to learn the process for contracting the W&SR Plan.*
- Trail Maintenance – Status. (Chris Curtis, Chris Bathurst, Jim Perry)
 - *Nothing new*
- Deerfield River - Recreation Management Planning - Status: (Bruce Lessels) *Bruce has nothing new to report.*
 - Anything to report?
 - Jim sent an Email to FRCOG asking who the new Deerfield River contact is, if any, and whether FRCOG plans on funding porta-potties at Shunpike as they have done in the recent past (not in 2023). (Jim) *Jim is waiting to hear back.*
- Relicensing - Status. (Bruce Lessels)
 - Anything to report?
- **Woodlands Partnership of Northwest MA** – Status Update. (Sheila Kelliher)
 - Anything to report?
- **Deerfield River Watershed Trout Unlimited** – Updates on what Trout Unlimited has been up to on the Deerfield River. (Sheila Kelliher)
 - Anything to report? *Nothing New. Eastern Brook Trout Venture funding regarding this??*
- **Mass Rivers Alliance** - Current issues. (Chris Bathurst & Jim)
 - Anything to report? *Mass Rivers Alliance asked about whether there was anything they could help with. Chris asked Julia Blatt a while ago about State Scenic Rivers, whether the state option might be available to us. Chris thinks it is dormant and unclear who's in charge at present. Jim P*

mentioned that Mass Rivers Alliance had told him that to go with a State process would risk the loss of Federal funding of projects down the road.

- **Financial Report:** Review Financial Report. (Patrick)
 - Approval of Expenses: Remember to run all expense invoices **through the DRWA President for approval**. If the **planned expense** is not already in the Approved Budget or voted on, talk to the President before making a purchase.
 - CRC expects to have the final, 2023 Calendar-Year financials to us in the coming 2 weeks. *Hopefully before February we'll know what we took in/spent last year.*
 - Our balance as of September 30th: \$48,169.17
 - *We had a record 2023 end-of-year donation from a single donor (\$2,500).*
 - *This donor loves the outdoors and his property has a stream and waterfall near his house. He has a history of making large donations to us. Jim sends out a personalized "Thank You" letter to him each year because we really appreciate his thoughtfulness and financial support. Jim put beautiful photos of Deerfield River on thank you notes he bought. Jim will share the list of donors with us when Nicole sends it to him. Jim donates the cards he orders (about 60 at a time) and only stamps come out of our budget.*
- **Secretary:** (Terry) *Nothing to report.*
- **Membership & Community Outreach:**
 - Newsletters & Appeals - (Jim)
 - The near-duplicate of our paper newsletter, the **E-News**, was sent out by email on the morning of December 23rd. It will be good to do a forensic analysis in February to see what types of member contact and information-sharing have also resulted in donations.
 - I sent out one Thank You card for a recent \$2,500 donation. Once the full 2023 donation list arrives from CRC, I will send out the rest of the Thank You cards.
- **Education:** (Terry Atkinson) *Nothing at present.*
 - Education Outreach: Anything to report?
 - Mini-Grants – Anything to report?
- **[Science]:** (Terry Atkinson?) *Terry will attend a Climate Reality meeting re COP28 Climate Change Conference next Thursday.*
Ken Sprankle's report from US Fish & Wildlife CT River Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office arrived, but have not had a chance to read yet.

New and Old Business:

Next meeting: January 15, 2024 6Terry :00 PM

Assignments & Adjournment:

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Robert's Rules of Order (*condensed*)

Types of Motions:

Main motion; Substitute motion; Friendly amendments; Call the Question;
Motion to table; Motion to reconsider.

How the Motion is Brought Before the Assembly

- A member makes the motion: *I move that (or "to")*
- Another member seconds the motion: *I second the motion*
- The chair states the motion: *It is moved and seconded*

The President puts the motion to a vote

1. The President asks: *Any further discussion?*
2. The President says: *Those in favor, say 'Aye'.* (Pause for response.)
Those opposed, say 'Nay'. (Pause for response.) *Those abstaining, please say 'Aye'.*

The President announces the result of the vote.

1. *The ayes have it, the motion carries, and ...* (indicating the effect of the vote) or
2. *The nays have it and the motion fails.*

HOST Initiating Google Meet

1. Log into the DRWA Google profile using the username/pswd (e.g., login to DRWA's gmail account).
2. Once logged in Google as DRWA, click the Google Meet link and join the meeting.
3. Once in the meeting, you'll get a pop-up window asking you to grant access to each attendee looking to join.