

**DEERFIELD RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING Minutes**

DATE: **Monday, February 21, 2022** **TIME:** **6:00** pm - 8:00 pm

LOCATION: via Google Meet

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

Special Guest: Corey Kurtz - CRC; Thad Olchowski - potential board member; Jack Widness - VT Representative

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

LIST OF TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED

--Call to order

--Review past minutes – **January 17, 2022** (Jim Perry)

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

Board Member Reports - Potential Open Leadership Positions (**Lead?**)

- **President & Vice Presidents:** (Jim Perry – President; Chris Curtis – 1st VP; Charlie Olchowski 2nd VP)
 - Corey Kurtz - CRC, Special Guest - Fundraising and Membership Corey says they're working on getting the information we need and realizes there have been glitches in getting out our financials. Says we did a great job raising over \$8,000. On the fundraising side, it seems we are making our money back cost-wise with donation envelopes, so keep doing this. She's here to listen. Jim says she's been great with ideas and support. Chris Curtis asks if there's any update on funding for North River. Corey thinks \$5,000 will be coming to DRWA per Andy from this project (not showing in the financial report yet). Jim cites the audit that came up as a result is quite expensive and was glad it's not coming out of our proceeds. CRC is paying the audit fee, per Corey. Jim says our filing with the IRS hit us with

a huge fine (\$4k?) for late filing forms. Jim sent a letter appealing this, and CRC will cover it if IRS relief is not granted. Corey says they're hiring a new finance director; send good candidates to CRC! They're trying hard to fix a lot of errors. They're replacing Phil's position with someone who can fill the entire job. Jack Widness asks Corey's position w/CRC...she explains her support role.

- Board of Directors Search for Additional Directors: (All)
- Mail & Email Call: (Jim)
- CRC Liaison: Latest news. (Ryan)
- **2022 Proposed Budget - VOTE** Jim says he needs Ryan's monitoring bill for 2021. Patrick mentions we didn't spend some budgeted funds due to covid. Jim mentions Art & Chris C talking about doing some trail maintenance; thinks we should keep that \$ amount, increase grants for 2 potential educational programs. David would like to keep the \$900 figure for Franklin Rivers Cleanup; Jim congratulates him for \$250 corporate donor. David would like to get some help with soliciting more of these. Ryan says ok on \$2000 for monitoring. Chris C says raise Wild & Scenic to \$300 for now. Jim is unsure what the River Restoration column should reflect, leave blank. Patrick suggests operation costs should be \$1600. **Budget passed unanimously.** Should be shared with Mallory at CRC;

Budget Item	Spent in 2021	2021 Budget	2022 Budget
Trail Maintenance	\$0.00	\$300	\$300
Educational Programs	\$0.00	\$250	\$500
Franklin Rivers Cleanup	\$630.68	\$900	\$900
Monitoring	TBD	\$2,000	\$2,000
Wild & Scenic Rivers	\$0.00	\$200	\$300
River Restoration	TBD	\$30,000	--
General Operations	\$1,552.30	\$1,103.60	\$1,600
Totals	\$2,182.98		

- **Watershed Projects:**

- Northern Watershed Update - Update on what types or issues and actions are occurring in the Vermont end of the Deerfield River watershed. (Jack Widness) *Jack says Somerset/Green Mountain Nat'l Forest will be working with them. Program at Mt. Snow on 3/24 5:30-8 p.m., Non-profits and interested organizations such as T.U. will be giving presentations for the different concerns & projects for which they'll be seeking volunteers. For eg. VT DEC will be presenting a 5 year Basin Plan relative to Deerfield River. Jim will email the agenda around, not finalized yet per Jack. Jack hopes Corey can share their mailing list to get the word out.*
- Franklin County Rivers Source to Sea Cleanup (formerly, The Green River Cleanup) and the Greenfield City Cleanup. – Status Update. (David Boles, Charlie Olchowski) *David says the 2022 cleanup date is the weekend of Sept. 25th. Green River Festival is on June 24th-26th this year. Last year we weren't able to get access for free; they wanted to charge a booth fee. David says we'll do the blue bag Greenfield cleanup in April. Patrick will reach out to the GR Festival to see if they can find out. Chris B is willing to contact the festival too, if help is needed. Email David if you have any ideas or thoughts. He has been making signs "Stand Up for Democracy" if anyone wants one.*
- Green River Watershed Alliance - Status Update. (Ryan O'Donnell and David Boles) *Ryan says they met last Friday 2/18. They maxed out the zoom attendees on the Beaver program, anyone can watch it on their website. They're still working on a mailing. Planning for late Spring*
- Monitoring – Status Update. (Ryan O'Donnell)
- Creating Resilient Communities (Franklin Conservation District) - 10th Anniversary event, on Thursday, March 10. After lunch, from 1:00 to 4:30. Franklin Conservation District and its many Resilient Communities partners are developing an afternoon of informative and interactive sessions. These will all be conducted virtually via Zoom, and will include a mix of presentations and open discussion. **Who plans on attending?** (Charlie Olchowski) *Jim asks if anyone is interested in this. Will send out notification. Infrastructure is very important. Chris C says they're presenting Climate Change Forum to 4 towns (Deerfield, Whately, Conway, Sunderland) workshops on what homeowners & others can do to combat climate change. It's open to the public, free, and provides lunch.*
- Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission's virtual Connecticut River Research and Management Forum, on Tuesday - Terry will attend.

- Wild & Scenic Rivers – Status. Update on community and legislative outreach efforts. Next steps. (Chris Curtis with Charlie Olchowski and Patrick McCoy) *Chris C says not a lot of news out of Washington; no particular news at present. Chris received a phone call from Jack Chorske (large donor to DRWA \$1000) willing to support us on Wild & Scenic. Do we know who he is? Patrick & Ryan will look him up in the gift database. Jim says he is passionate about the river. Has a son at Deerfield Academy.*
- Dornbusch/Cromack River Restoration Project – Status Update,
 - CRC will be “transferring **\$5,000** to DRWA for your part in helping to manage the project.” This is free and clear and we will not have to pay the cost of the financial audit. *The Board was thankful for the money.*
 - I had previously asked Andrea what the expenses will be for both project areas over the next five years: *My best guess is that there will be a total of ~\$35,000 at the end of 5 years [left over] combined from both of our grants, and then if we split them it will be **\$17,500 [left over]** for both orgs. We will not be done paying out invoices until January of 2026. The final report is due to the Army Corps of Engineers on December 31, 2025. -Andrea, CRC (Charlie Olchowski & Jim Perry)*
- Regional Restoration Partnerships Program – (Patrick McCoy)
 - No recent activity. On standby. *Nothing new. Patrick assumes we didn't get the grant; ok to take it off the agenda.*
- Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership – Status Update. (Sheila Kelliher)
- Trout Unlimited – Updates on what Trout Unlimited has been up to on the Deerfield River. (Sheila Kelliher)
 - *Sheila will report on the 01-20-2022 TU meeting and their agreement with Brookfield Power.*

Chris B says T.U. reached an agreement with Brookfield Power & ? Companies especially regarding the dewatering of the river. Agreement will take 3 years to implement. State denied their permit because they did not comply with their part of the agreement, though they claimed they did. The Appalachian Mountain Club had a conflict and wanted a much larger flow maintained, probably from a rafting perspective. CRC, NE Whitewater, & others also want higher flows. Patrick adds to Chris C's remarks wanting to know more about the background and how we can find a common ground. Chris B wants to know how we focus in on the process to resolve various points of view and take a position as the Board. Chris C cites our opportunity to make our contribution during short comment periods effective. Jim states that his federal experience steers him to trying to take a middle position and not be too polarized.

- Mass Rivers Alliance - Current issues. Jim asked Mallory to pay our membership for 2022. No word back. (Sheila Kelliher with Chris Curtis) *Waiting for CRC to send a check.*
- Trail Maintenance – Status. (Art Schwenger, with Chris Curtis, Chris Bathurst, Jim Perry) There are at least three online trail apps that Jim plans to populate with Mohican-Mohawk Trail routes and information this spring or summer. The Town of Shelburne Open Space Committee has been doing the same thing for their trails. *Jim’s thinking of getting out to map out the Mohican-Mohawk Trail and using online resources to update. We are part of a partnership that meets once a year with the state. Chris C cites a problem with access to a section near Dragon Brook, hopes to get permission to access that section of the trail and maintain it. Jim says we have old letters of permission from private landowners, but it isn’t always clear where the private v power company & railroad property/right of way boundaries are. Jim says the power company has been very cooperative and installed Polly’s Bridge, as well as improving the trail along the RR grade to the south of Polly’s Bridge to So. Deerfield. It’s part of their Mitigation requirements. Great River Hydro is especially helpful. Chris thinks if GR Hydro gives permission, he can go to RR to make a case for allowing us access. Chris C asks if Art still wants to be involved. Jim says Art wants to do some trail work this spring/summer, but still has a lot going on in his life. Not able to come to meetings at present. Chris B regarding the RR/Bardwell area says it’s not a big section. Would there be a workaround? Chris C says below might be a workaround below the bridge would be better. Chris B fishes in that area and would be interested in collaborating with Chris C....Jim will try to get a map of the ownership.*
- Deerfield River Recreation Management Plan – Status.
 - Nothing new this month from FRCOG on how they will be using their new funding for a river study.
 - Charlie and Jim attended State Senator Adam Hinds' Shunpike Rest Area press meeting on January 20th for the presentation of a \$500,000 Recreation grant to the Town of Charlemont. The purpose of the grant is to recognize and support the fact that Charlemont is a hub for outdoor recreation. This was a good opportunity for us to refresh connections with the other river players.
 - The Town of Charlemont agreed to invite us to the public meetings that will be held this spring to decide how to allocate the funding. (Jim Perry) *Jim says they will invite him to their public meetings so DRWA can be involved.*
- **Website Maintenance, Google Docs, Email System:** (Patrick McCoy) Status - Patrick added the “Cookie Legal Notice” to our website. *Nothing new.*

- **Financial Report:** Review Mallory's Financial Report. (Patrick and Jim)
 - **IRS Nonprofit filing:** CRC had not kept up with our annual NonProfit IRS filing in the past, so the IRS levied a large penalty. The new budget person at CRC has been bringing all of our filings up to date and DRWA is appealing the fine to the IRS, but CRC will cover the penalty for us if the IRS does not decide in our favor.
 - **Audit:** There will be no charge to us for the audit. Andy had the following questions:
 - Could you also let us know if:
 - There have been any legal issues at DRWA?
 - Are there any other possible contingencies to note?
 - Any new commitments made by DRWA or notices from state or federal government?
 - Any events subsequent to 12/31/2020 that would require disclosure?
 - *The response from the Board was "no" to all.*

Last Updated: February 18, 2022

- **2021 Budget:** \$4900.00
- **Surplus:** \$6,431.24
- **Donations/Income:** \$8,614.22
- **Expenses:** \$2,182.98 (Does not include Monitoring cost)
- **Net Income:** \$6,431.24
- **Secretary:** (Terry)
- **Relicensing:** Status (Chris Curtis)
- **Membership & Community Outreach:** (**Overall Lead?**) (Sheila Kelliher (Instagram) with Jim Perry (Newsletters) and Ryan O'Donnell (Facebook))
 - Thank You Cards – Jim sent out the final "Thank You" cards to the 2021 donors whose donations arrived after mid-December. Total Donations for 2021 before CRC's administrative fee: **\$8,614,22** and after CRC's administrative fee **\$7,215.27** (Jim)
 - DRWA Instagram Account – (Sheila)
 - Facebook Account – (Ryan)
 - Newsletters - (Jim)
 - American Whitewater's Deerfield Fest - Here is an opportunity for participating again in American Whitewater's Deerfield Fest, August 5-7 weekend, in Charlemont at Berkshire East Resort. (Ryan and I ran the booth in 2017, and I think we were the only conservation group.)
 - **Are we interested?** If so, **who, if anyone, would like to design and construct an attention-grabbing booth that has active things for people to do, but also highlights river/watershed conservation?** These are mostly whitewater enthusiasts, so you have to grab their attention and keep them interested with something like a quick

game and giveaways. A passive booth will not work for this active crowd. We were able to borrow a tent from another non-profit last time. *No one offered to run a booth.*

■ **Pro:**

- Nonprofit groups typically have free booth space
- Held at Berkshire East, which has to be better than the Charlemont Fairgrounds
- A chance to add people to our mailing list

■ **Cons:**

- Most attendees are from well outside our watershed.
- Not really our key demographic, but occasionally someone appears who is fairly local and interested in our mission.
- The booth would have to be occupied for parts of 1 or 2 days. (We could possibly team up with another organization.)

● **Education:** (Terry Atkinson)

- Mini-Grants – (Terry) *Nothing new. Will touch base with Alia again.*
- School Outreach -
 - Jim participated in a recorded interview with the Mohawk Trail Regional School on his career in conservation and his recommendations for students interested in this type of career. (Jim)
 - Jim was approached about any service learning opportunities and field trips for 36 - 5th graders at Shelburne Falls Elementary. (Jim)
Keep in mind that we should come up with ideas for such projects.

● **[Science]:** (Lead?)

New and Old Business:

Next meeting: March 21, 6:00 PM, via Google Meet.

Assignments & Adjournment:

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.