

**DEERFIELD RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING Minutes**

DATE: **Monday, July 18, 2022** **TIME:** **6:00** pm - 8:00 pm

LOCATION: via Google Meet

	Art Schwenger - on indeterminate leave (not on quorum)		Chris Bathurst
x	Charlie Olchowski	x	Ryan O'Donnell
x	David Boles	x	Sheila Kelliher
x	Jim Perry	x	Terry Atkinson
	Chris Curtis		Patrick McCoy

Special Guests: 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 – **June 20, 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)
 - Board of Directors Search for Additional Directors: (All)
 - Mail & Email Call: Do we have any? (Jim)
 - I have been using the DRWA email address for people to sign up for the guided hikes. *Seems to be successful*

- CRC Liaison: Latest news. (Ryan) *Feels like the finance is getting on track with the new CFO and a new accountant on contract to replace Deroj.*
- A Note from Andy Fisk- CRC:
 - **CARRIED OVER FROM THE JUNE MEETING: From Andy:** *We need to have a discussion reDRWA retaining its corporate status as 501(c)(3). Let's talk in July when I am back, but the administrative costs to CRC to manage the reporting is outweighing any benefit to either DRWA and CRC as long as you continue with the affiliate relationship. I recommend you drop it, but that's for discussion. Charlie is waiting for a call back, but in talking to an attorney who has done this, you should carry your own 501(c)(3) and it is not legal for us to go under another organization's 501(c)(3). Sheila concurs that it's not that big a deal accounting wise, and Charlie's atty friend thinks it is nonsense that it's a hassle. Ryan thinks no CFO may have a different idea. Ryan says it came up with Dornbush project. CRC could only accept so much donations for this, so DRWA could because we have this nonprofit status. We need more clarification, discussion with new CFO, make a list of pros & cons. Ryan said DRWA should be having annual meetings as a requirement of this. Charlie says to get that status is a lot of work, but there are advantages. Sheila cites Wild & Scenic may be an example, tho' Jim reminds us that CRC is handling all of our contracting and we are a chapter of their organization. Andy Fisk is out until next week, so we are tabling for now.*

● VOTE to end 501(c)(3) status?

● 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 we've gotten some funding for Deerfield conservation work. Aaron Rogers from TU National is going to do some electronic fishing in Voss Brook August 4th & 5th. Anyone interested is welcome to help. Re directors from VT, Jack says he's a consultant and a liaison with Great River Byways. Deerfield goes through Mt. Snow property and created Snow lake for snowmaking...it got replaced by another facility on another brook. VT law requires it to be cleaned up and has a 10 year plan. Nothing has been done to remove/remediate the snow lake and lodge. Jack's TU chapter is trying to act as an interested party to make sure it gets done; this should've been done long ago. It goes through a parking lot and warms up the river waters which damages the fish habitat. He's not sure but thinks salt is not being used in the area, but Jim mentions the water should be going into a*

water retention pond. Ryan says they should not be able to discharge water directly into stream. Charlie weighs in with history of 20 years ago. Ryan adds that CRC is soliciting to be the restoration party for that remediation, restoration, dam removal. Jack will get back to us on this.

- *Regarding wake boat issue: Jack's group on impounded lakes and wake boats problem. Months ago DRWA sent a letter of support. They're now in the public meeting phase. Please support the petition as an individual before public comment period ends in July 29th encourages us to go to the link he sent to support the work of Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes and get everyone we know to sign. The public seems to be in support of limiting wake boats, which are changing and damaging the environment of these lakes. They chop up invasives and spread them, and there's been algae bloom for first time. David Boles wants info to include on interview with WRSI, thinks Monte will take an interest, and Jack will send him an information sheet. Dave has been seeing ATV crossings frequently along Green River.*
- 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 we are pretty much on track, in spite of confusion due to Covid. Cleanup is on Sept. 23rd-24th. Has a band lined up and is working on food. Would like to have folks help get sponsors, has a draft sponsor letter which he'll send to Jim for editing. CRC has solicited a lot of businesses, so we should look at their list so we don't duplicate. Ryan says Stacey at CRC helps coordinate cleanup and probably has that list. Charlie asks if there are levels of status for giving for regarding donation. Ryan explains that status level might affect promotional presence on media, etc. Jim will contact Stacey Leonard and update our webpage, Facebook, & Instagram if needed. David doesn't know where we are with the blue bag distribution issue. He is also in contact with EPA with Nelson Road dump and Montague plains dump near Hatchery Road, both are on Fish & Wildlife land. It is on the other side of the road, David flagged.*
- Green River Festival Booth - (Chris Curtis, David Boles, Patrick McCoy)
 - *Held on June 24-26, no fees, 3 nonprofits groups. We got in because we knew somebody.*
 - *Lessons Learned:*
 - *Most people were going from A to B and passing by on the paved road.*

- Some people came over to the booth because they had specific questions, like where to go tubing (shown the article in our newsletter).
- Would have been good to have more people filling shifts.
- What attracted the most people to the booth and got them to sign up for our mailing list was when Patrick practiced casting in front of the tent while his sons did the wiffle ball toss into the river tube. Action attracts people. *We need an activity to lure in more adults.*
- Darn hot, but no rain this time, and not much wind.
- Discussion: **Was it worth the time, effort, and cost?**
 - 25 signed the newsletter signup list (I edited), some with only email addresses, + 1 more using QR Code? (Has CRC accessed that name yet for us?)
- The DRWA tent is falling apart. If we are planning to set up a booth at the Green River Festival, or any other in the future, should we buy a new 10 x 10 Canopy Tent with 4 Removable Zippered Sidewalls and Stakes. Less than \$400 **VOTE?** *Charlie suggests monitoring the list of 25 who signed up for the newsletter to see if it was effective. David suggests more hands-on nature stuff for kids attracted people in his experience.*
- Green River Watershed Alliance - Status Update. (Ryan O'Donnell and David Boles) *Ryan just got approved for mailing and will send final draft to Patrick for our website when ready.*
- Monitoring – Status Update and discuss invoicing process. (Ryan O'Donnell) *Ryan will add notes about wet or dry weather in regard to monitoring stats. It's in his long term plan to monitor for chloride, possibly nitrogen for MA as well as VT. He has an equipment grant. Is trying to add new things without letting old things fall apart!*
- Wild & Scenic Rivers – Status. Next steps. (Chris Curtis with Charlie Olchowski and Patrick McCoy)
 - Congressman McGovern Hosting Press Conference to move forward with National Wild and Scenic River Status for Deerfield River.
 - Wild and Scenic River **media event** will be held on Monday, July 25 from 10am to 11am at Stillwater Bridge in Deerfield. *“Be there or be square.”* Chris will coordinate and run the event.
 - Table, DRWA banner, cords/ropes/zip ties? Name tags? *Sheila thinks we should have nametags and Ryan can help*

with labels he has at CRC. Markers? Newsletters, Brochures, Mo-Mo maps, etc?

- *Arrange Sunday evening/Monday morning **clean-up**. We need to get there early to clean up. Jim will talk to Chris about whether we can do this Sunday night 7/24.*
- Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership – Status Update. (Sheila Kelliher) *Nothing new per Sheila.*
- Trout Unlimited – Updates on what Trout Unlimited has been up to on the Deerfield River. (Sheila Kelliher)
 - *July - Fly fishing for Carp in Rowe Chapter meeting this Thursday, Thomas & Thomas' Reese will give a demonstration. Initial electroshocking done in Rice Brook with Erin Rogers scientist for NE Region. Wild brook trout population doubled due to woody debris loading. It is ground fed, so water stays cold. State & TU National are each doing analysis of whether these type of brooks*
 - *August - Annual banquet at the Warfield House Mike Cole will get this year's Bob Anderson Conservation Award. Polly received last year. They will try to identify a different site for cleanup up this year and are open to suggestions.*
- Mass Rivers Alliance - Current issues. *Sheila hasn't been attending recent meetings, but it's on her radar to attend water policy and small organization meetings. Hopes to speak to group, ask all organizations throughout state to if any of them have any experience with road salt issue. Ryan says September meeting in Hale Reservation in Westwood will honor Andrea Donlon.*
- Trail Maintenance – Status. (Art Schwenger, with Chris Curtis, Chris Bathurst, Jim Perry)
 - **Part II: Who would like to join** Chris Bathurst and I to remove 4 fallen trees and two dangerous trees along the Wilcox Hollow section of the Mohican-Mohawk Trail? Will probably take an hour.
 - August Saturday and Sunday options: *These will be at 9 a.m. Jim will keep us in the loop about when/what they're doing. Trying to clean up the most scenic part of the trail.*
 - 8/6 and 7
 - 8/20 and 21 *Sheila can't do these dates, invites us to her housewarming!*
 - 8/27 and 28
 - Park at the farthest parking area at the end of the Wilcox Hollow Road. We then hike a few hundred yards on the Mo-Mo Trail while I cut and others move wood out of the way.

- Deerfield River Recreation Management Plan – Status. (Jim Perry) *Jim hasn't heard anything. Ryan states there are 2 portapotties at Shunpike!!*
 - *Still waiting on our first meeting for developing a river plan.*
 - *Jim completed a FRCOG survey on management of the Mo-Mo Trail as a DRWA recreation asset.*
- **Website Maintenance, Google Docs, Email System:** (Patrick McCoy) Status - *As things come in, Patrick updates, recently on the hike announcements.*
- **Financial Report:** Review Mallory's Financial Report. (Patrick) *Jim has finally received notice that monitoring costs have finally been debited.*
 - **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:** (Chris Curtis)
- **Membership & Community Outreach:** (**Overall Lead?**) (Sheila Kelliher (Instagram) with Jim Perry (Newsletters) and Ryan O'Donnell (Facebook) *Jim says they polled how people heard about the hike. There are 3 more hikes scheduled on Shelburne Open Space Ctte & Arms Library. Jim is leading all 4 hikes!*
 - DRWA Instagram Account – (Sheila)
 - Facebook Account – (Ryan)
 - Newsletters - (Jim)
 - If you did not receive the following newsletters, let Jim P know:
 - **Spring Appeal Letter** sent out (CRC).
 - **Summer print insert newsletter** (CRC). (**may not have arrived yet**)
 - **Summer E-News** sent out (CRC)
- **Education:** (Terry Atkinson)
 - Education Outreach: Jim P will be leading one Shelburne hike a month starting in July and ending in October in partnership with The Town of Shelburne Open Space Committee and the Arms Library in Shelburne Falls. **Mohican-Mohawk Trail Hike** - Held on July 9, 9:00 AM was a success and had 14 hikers in total. We attracted some DRWA member interest with our Instagram and Facebook posting. Also posted on our news web page. Chris Bathurst attended. Jim led the hike to the old Franklin Forestry nursery retail center ruins and sandy beaches along the Deerfield across from the Gardner Falls plan, where we removed graffiti in 2020.

- Next hike is August 13, along the **Shelburne Fire Tower Trail**, but not all the way to the tower.
- Mini-Grants – Hold until late summer. (Terry) *We should update our letter for Mini-grant proposals for next meeting!*

- [Science]: (Lead?)

New and Old Business:

Next meeting: August 15, 2022, 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.