

**DEERFIELD RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: Monday, August 15, 2022 **TIME:** 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

LOCATION: via Google Meet

	Art Schwenger - on indeterminate leave		Chris Bathurst
X	Charlie Olchowski	X	Ryan O'Donnell
X	David Boles		Sheila Kelliher
X	Jim Perry		Terry Atkinson
X	Chris Curtis	X	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 – **July 18, 2022** (Jim Perry) Minutes approved

--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)
 - CRC Liaison: Latest news. (Ryan)
 - A Note from Andy Fisk- CRC:
 - **CARRIED OVER FROM THE JUNE & July MEETING: From Andy:**
DRWA retaining its corporate status as 501(c)(3)? Charlie's findings from

a CPA? Jim has not talked to Andy yet. **VOTE to end 501(c)(3) status? - not enough info to vote yet.**

- Charlie to follow up w/ a CPA for a consult, clarifying DRWA's relationship with CRC and how accounting is managed.

- **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)
 - Snow Lake water retention pond (Mt Snow) - Jack is looking into how this will be managed when the retention pond is removed and impact on the North Branch of the Deerfield (restoration work). Meeting with Mt Snow's CEO to discuss the resort's 10 yr plan. CRC is involved but not part of next week's meeting.
- Franklin County Rivers Source to Sea Cleanup (formerly, The Green River Cleanup) and the Greenfield City Cleanup. – Status Update. (David Boles, Charlie Olchowski)
 - Is a draft sponsor letter ready for Jim's review?
 - David checking in with Stacey to see if a prior version is available. Once we have it, David to send to Jim to review and put on DRWA letterhead.
 - David to follow up with Stacey to inquire about CRC requests for donations/sponsorship.
 - David has flyers - asked the board to help distribute. Will leave them at CRC.
 - Contact David with ideas for who else to ask for donations/sponsorship.
 - David got permission to continue the blue bag cleanup through September.
 - Chris inquired about the Town of Deerfield DPW to help w/ a Stillwater cleanup. Chris will reach out to Laurie Bousada(?) to initiate.
 - Green River Festival - The posted QR code links people right to the DRWA donation website where they can sign up. We will never know how many people signed up for a newsletter using the QR code, but Jim only saw one person use it.
- Green River Watershed Alliance - Status Update. (Ryan O'Donnell and David Boles)
 - Ryan to share a link to a recent mailing/info doc for us to post to our website (sent to VT residents only).

- Monitoring – Status Update and discuss invoicing process. (Ryan O'Donnell)
 - 2 more monitoring dates
 - High flow monitoring not possible this year due to low water levels
 - Interesting results in drought years (esp related to warmer water levels - e.g., giardia detected at the Green River swimming area).
- Wild & Scenic Rivers – Status. Next steps. (Chris Curtis with Charlie Olchowski and Patrick McCoy)
 - Jim McGovern held a Wild and Scenic River media event on July 25 at the Stillwater Bridge. It was very successful and there was plenty of media coverage.
 - A link to the Congressional website, where you can track the progress of the bill:
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/8504/all-actions?s=1&r=2>
- 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)
 - August - Annual banquet at the Warfield House
- Mass Rivers Alliance - Current issues. (Sheila Kelliher)
- Trail Maintenance – Status. (Art Schwenger, with Chris Curtis, Chris Bathurst, Jim Perry)
 - On August 9th, Chris Bathurst and Jim Perry removed four fallen trees along the Wilcox Hollow section of the Mohican-Mohawk Trail.
- Deerfield River Recreation Management Plan – Status. (Jim Perry)
 - *From Jessica Atwood at FRCOG:*
 - *A Stakeholder Meeting will be held in September.*
 - *FRCOG did install porta-potties at Shunpike.*
 - *The Deerfield River Outdoor Recreation Study is being developed by a consultant presently. We hope to host a stakeholder meeting sometime in September to go over the draft.*
 - *We had an IT consultant do an evaluation of about a dozen river access points from Monroe to Deerfield to check out the cell phone coverage and the potential to enhance public connectivity (such as setting up a WIFI node or even an emergency phone) to create connectivity in areas where there is no cell phone coverage. We are sharing the report with Great River Hydro and Brookfield Renewables, with the hope we can encourage them to consider implementing some of the recommendations.*

- *We will be doing a visitor/river user online survey soon to get a better understanding of who is using the river. The flyers for this online survey will be posted on the porta-potties along the river, including the ones at Shunpike that FRCOG paid for through a grant.*
 - *We created a public safety map of emergency take-out locations with the help of public safety and the rafting & tubing companies. The maps will only be for this purpose and are not public tourism/river user maps. We are waiting to hear back from the printers. To correspond with these take-out locations, we had signs manufactured to install at some of these locations to help folks understand where they are and how to get help.*
- **Website Maintenance, Google Docs, Email System:** (Patrick McCoy) Status -
- **Financial Report:** Review Mallory's Financial Report. (Patrick)
 - New CRC CFO is in place. Has been working on fixing the financial reporting system.
 - Mallory is working on payables. Laura (new hire) is working on receivables.
 - Jim and Patrick to meet w/ Andy re: financial reporting status (2021 report, 2022 budget & quarterly statements). Jim to schedule.
- **Last Updated: July 18, 2022 by Jim to include Monitoring expenses**
 - **2021** Budget: \$4900.00
 - Surplus: \$4479.24
 - Donations/Income: \$8,614.22
 - Expenses: \$4,134.98 (**Now includes** Monitoring cost)
 - 07/18/2021 Jim approved 2021 water monitoring expenses of \$1,952.00
 - Net Income: \$4,479.24
- **Secretary:** (Terry)
- **Relicensing:** (Chris Curtis)
- **Membership & Community Outreach:** (**Overall Lead?**) (Sheila Kelliher (Instagram) with Jim Perry (Newsletters) and Ryan O'Donnell (Facebook))
 - DRWA Instagram Account – (Sheila)
 - Facebook Account – (Ryan)
 - Newsletters - (Jim)
 - Postal rates are costing us. Jim worked with Nicole Reigle at CRC to eliminate from the paper mailing list anyone who has not donated since 2017.
 - A straw poll of Board Members confirmed that there were a sufficient number of Board Members willing to stuff envelopes to

take the workload pressure off of CRC staff. It is also possible that in the future this may be done at the printers, but that has not been confirmed yet.

- **Education:** (Terry Atkinson)
 - Education Outreach: Jim P led a hike up the Shelburne Fire Tower and Big Trees Trails to a Shelburne Falls overlook and back. Six hikers total. Went really well. This was conducted in partnership with The Town of Shelburne Open Space Committee and the Arms Library in Shelburne Falls.
 - Mini-Grants – Ready to go? (Terry)
- **[Science]:** (Lead?)

New and Old Business:

- Chris raised the question about the possibility of an in person meeting. Ryan indicated the CRC office is open, masks optional. Ryan also raised the possibility of an outdoor meeting. Polycmm is available for audio. Will give it a shot next month - Patrick to help support a hybrid option for those that aren't able to attend in person.

Next meeting: September 19, 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.