

**DEERFIELD RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** **Monday, September 19, 2022** **TIME:** **6:00** pm - 8:00 pm

**LOCATION:** **At CRC HQ @ 15 Bank Row, Suite A, Greenfield**

We will also try video conferencing via Google Meet for those who cannot attend in person.

DRWA Board Meeting –

***If you Choose Google Meet - Please Log in a bit early.***

Monday, **September 19th** · 6:00 – 7:30 pm

**Google Meet** joining info

**Video call link:** <https://meet.google.com/oyk-onqy-spj>

Or dial: (US) +1 515-605-0233 PIN: 877 278 409#

	Art Schwenger - on indeterminate leave	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	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 – **August 15, 2022** (Jim Perry) *Approved*

--Identify **New Agenda Items** not included in this proposed agenda. *Jim proposes if we propose to send out an official letter on letterhead from the DRWA, we should make*

sure we have the latest DRWA stationery and submit for review to Jim (for errors, typos, protocol), and he will likely submit to others on board for review.

### **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)
  - Writing Letters on DRWA Letterhead - Let's be sure that all draft letters that are to go out under the signature of a Board Member and with DRWA letterhead, are first reviewed by the President for protocol, edits, and additional suggestions. Likewise, the President will have their draft letters reviewed by the Vice Presidents and possibly the entire Board.
  - 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 CFO? Jim talked to Andy. *An issue of need, is there a need for it, and CRC paperwork and \$ costs. If we plan on leaving CRC soon, then it makes sense to retain 501(c)(3) status. Not very difficult to reapply if we need 501(c)(3) status in the future. **VOTE to end 501(c)(3) status?***  
*Chris Curtis says there could be a need for a very large grant to do the study for Wild & Scenic; we should think carefully before abandoning this status. Contracting has to go through CRC at present per Jim. Chris is willing to sit down with Andy at CRC; National Park Service may have requirement detailing how this needs to happen. He wants to check these 2 things, and Jim and Charlie would like to be part of the discussion. Charlie says Community Preservation had several entities using their 501C3 status and it wreaked havoc on their accounting. CRC missed a filing for 501C3 status, so the IRS has proposed a fine, which CRC has agreed to be responsible for. Charlie will be trying to contact an accountant.. Charlie states that T.U. chapters have to have their own EIN numbers. Sheila chimes in that she's not sure if it makes sense, because all our grants go through CRC. She feels they are not living up to their part of their agreement. Ryan says CRC is successfully managing several million dollar grants. Chris expresses a concern that we must be confident that a large grant needs to be managed properly in respect to Wild & Scenic.*
    - CRC is close to getting financial staff onboard. *Within the next few weeks, hopefully our finances will be updated! Current spreadsheet doesn't include up-to-date donations we received and \$5K from the North River Project Charlie worked on. Patrick mentions we have yet to receive a quarterly statement as promised. Ryan says software switch may be*

*causing this problem due to a glitch in getting information in & out, as well as staffing. It's affecting all their grants, too! Patrick is happy to work with CRC once we receive current data. He has a list of latest donors from Jim and Andy. Jim would like to work with CRC to make sure we have the latest financial info on data spreadsheets.*

- CRC will work on updating our budget spreadsheets.
- Andy provided an updated list of donations for 2021 and 2022 to-date.

- **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 since we last met, Trout Unlimited. has met with general mgmt at Mt. Snow. The Mt. Snow Lake is on the main stem of the North Branch of the Deerfield River, and there is remediation that needs to be done. Apparently it's still on Mount Snow's agenda, but without a date. Jack feels we need to hold their feet to the fire. Mount Snow has contacted some engineers. The storm-water retention pond will be considered. They're trying to get Ron Rhodes - CRC to identify funding. Trout Unlimited will be birddogging this! Jack says in VT, entities like T.U. can be stakeholders. Kathy Arfer is interested as well as Ron. Jack thinks the new manager at Mt. Snow needs a little time to get his feet on the ground. They have until next year due to Covid to extend the 10 year plan. Charlie thinks Windham regional commission should be part of this.*
- *There's been some electroshocking fishing to determine fish populations and determine what stream remediation may be needed.*
- *Impounded lakes Somerset & Harriman: Jack's group is involved with proposing additional wake-boating restrictions and has filed a petition 3/9/22 he'd like us to sign onto as individuals.... And there have been over 350 letters submitted. Jack will send us a link. Jack says they'd go along with wake-boating if people were restricted to wake-boating 1000 feet off shore in a minimum of 20' of water. David Boles says Monte is more interested in keeping the focus on this area, in regard to getting our local radio station involved. WRSI has a tower in Marlboro per Charlie, so WRSI really is in VT already. Per Jack, wake-boating effect is probably more than 20' deep, but there is insufficient study. So, it's a water quality issue per Charlie, man-made reservoirs are more vulnerable to invasive species and these can be spread by wake-boats.*
- Franklin County Rivers Source to Sea Cleanup (formerly, The Green River Cleanup) and the Greenfield City Cleanup. – Status Update. (David Boles, Charlie Olchowski)
  - **Getting Ready for the 24th!** *David says they are 80% ready. They'll be there 9-5. Feels they have done their homework, and there are a*

*lot of sites to clean up. Jim asks for as many photos as possible. Thanks for your help! Looking forward to a good day.*

- *Jim Reviewed David's draft Sponsor letter. Jim mailed out 4 Sponsor letters to Charlemont outfitters. David and others?*
- *City of Greenfield September **Blue Bag** project. (Made it in the Greenfield Recorder **online version** and mentioned **Deerfield River Watershed Association**, twice by full name. Charlie says response to the blue bag project has been great. All Franklin County towns are involved now. Jim asks what other fundraising outreach to companies has been completed. David says they've sent about 30-35 sponsor letters in re to FC Rivers Cleanup. Chris C says WRSI has been very good about getting the word out for Source to Sea. Jim says this is the 1st year we've sent out formal sponsorship letters, printed out by CRC. Jim wants donations David receives to support the cleanup be recognized in the budget for David's cleanup; Jim wants David to keep track of donations they received specifically from this.*
- *Green River Watershed Alliance - Status Update. (Ryan O'Donnell and David Boles) Ryan says they sent out the mailing to everyone in the GR watershed in VT, printed enough to mail to Leyden, Shelburne, & Colrain, with brochures. Map by Jeff Nugent at Windham Regional got a grant to create a map based on National Park Service maps.*
- *Monitoring – Status Update and discuss invoicing process. (Ryan O'Donnell) Season wrapped up in August, now waiting for the lab. Last year the results didn't get out for quite awhile. Ryan plans to get the 2021 report done in October, and 2022 when lab results come out. Chris notices from kayaking that once you get down into Deerfield, he has seen green slime on the bottom of the river and wonders if we can get monitoring done. Ryan says it needs to be funded, but the state is not monitoring it. Chris says 604B funding may help if we partner with FRCOG. Ryan says we have 6 dates for monitoring in MA, 8 in VT. Charlie asks if there's a way to get a bigger bang for the buck by publishing the results of monitoring by sending a press release to the media. Ryan says the problem is that data is already out of date within a few short time, he's done press releases. Charlie thinks we could do a boilerplate press release and send it out to the media, even if already out of date, we can give a general idea for what is going on in the rivers. Ryan is open to assistance. He does post on the Deerfield River Watershed Association Facebook page. Jim would like to see a general press release that discusses what we are finding as a result of years of*

monitoring. Jim, Charlie, & Chris will work on this. Ryan believes CRC will be a salt watch partner with Izaak Walton League of America, and will get kits, as there is a concern about salt in the Deerfield. Jim Boehmer is already a part of this. You can sign up individually and they'll mail to your house.

- Wild & Scenic Rivers – Next steps. (Chris Curtis with Charlie Olchowski and Patrick McCoy)
  - Note from: Holly Knox, Recreation Program Manager, US Forest Service, Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest
    - *I am writing on behalf of the US Forest Service (USFS) – Green Mountain National Forest in regards to your organization seeking Wild and Scenic (WSR) designation of the Deerfield River. We recently learned of your effort (from VPR!)– it looks like you have made a lot of strides towards seeking designation, congrats! As you are likely aware, the USFS completed a Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) in 2006 and part of that process included determining WSR eligibility based on the Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORVs) of river segments within our boundary (see attached analysis). We determined the Deerfield River was eligible as a Scenic River from the Searsburg Reservoir to the river's headwaters based on hydrologic and wildlife ORVs. If there is information we can provide or opportunities for USFS staff to be involved in your process, please let me know. Chris says it'll be great to have their support once it happens. Jack says their T.U. chapter would really like to hear from Chris, maybe bring the W&SR discussion to a meeting. TU could then figure out how they could help and Chris could help determine what the needs are. Jim says TU will have a say in it. Charlie suggests an email mini newsletter to all interested parties with current status, keep them informed, and thank them for their support. Chris thinks this could happen now. Jim says the selectboards who were on board before will need this continuity offered by newsletter updates as town select board members change.*
  - A link to the Congressional website, where you can track the progress of the bill: **Status: Introduced House and Senate** No updates as yet per Chris. He has a meeting scheduled with Sen. Markey's Christine Aleshko to find out if we can move the process along. Chris thinks it will take a year or two.
  - <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/8504/all-actions?s=1&r=2>

- Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership – Update. (Sheila Kelliher) *Sheila has not heard not heard much from them this summer. There will be a whole board meeting in October.*
- Trout Unlimited – Updates on what Trout Unlimited has been up to on the Deerfield River. (Sheila Kelliher) *They're finishing up wood in the stream project on Rice Brook. Erin Rogers will be out there with her team. Adam Calsa, state fisheries biologist, was out at Clesson brook with Sheila electroshock fishing. They saw rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, and where they were in the river and whether they are native or naturalized. Had their annual meeting at the Warfield House. The TU national president was present. Nice event, live auction and raffle raised \$3,000. They will meet at Shunpike & confluence of Cold River on Zoar Rd. to participate in river cleanup on Saturday.*
- Mass Rivers Alliance - Current issues. (Sheila Kelliher) *She has taken a break for the summer. Feels Chris would find them helpful in re to Wild & Scenic. It wouldn't hurt to make an announcement about Wild & Scenic where they put out an updated newsletter on it regularly. Katherine Lang is the contact person.*
- Trail Maintenance – Status. (Art Schwenger, with Chris Curtis, Chris Bathurst, Jim Perry) *Jim & Chris B have been out doing chainsaw work to help keep the Mohican-Mohawk Trail clear. Done for summer.*
- Deerfield River Recreation Management Plan – Status. (Jim Perry)
  - *From Jessica Atwood at FRCOG: Contractor has not contacted them yet, after FRCOG got the funding for it. Once the contractor was hired, hasn't heard a thing from the contractor. The DRWA list of issues was submitted to FRCOG; Jim hopes they are considering it. Also, Charlemont was given \$500,000 and promised to involve DRWA. They had a local meeting and did not involve DRWA!*
    - *A Stakeholder Meeting will be held in ~~September~~ October? No word yet.*
- **Website Maintenance, Google Docs, Email System:** (Patrick McCoy) Status - *Nothing new, except he has made the updates. He'll get the monitoring on the website under monitoring results. Jim says the website is working, as kayakers and tubers are finding their way to the website. Jim gets lots of emails, says having a dynamic and up-to-date website really helps. Patrick attended American Whitewater event, felt some of the other booths showed we should have a presence. There were 150 people in attendance.*
- **Financial Report:** Review Mallory's Financial Report. (Patrick) *Nothing to report!*
  - **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)
    - Draft Fall Appeal Letter sent to CRC. Need more folks reviewing and adding to Jim's drafts. *Will come out in November.*
    - Need to begin working on articles for paper and e-news newsletters. *They can be similar to the articles coming out in November. It is a 2-sided newsletter. Please submit anytime within the next few weeks.*
- **Education:** (Terry Atkinson)
  - Education Outreach: Jim P led a hike to the High Ledge at Audubon's High Ledges Wildlife Sanctuary. This was conducted in partnership with The Town of Shelburne Open Space Committee and the Arms Library in Shelburne Falls. October hike will be at the Shelburne Wooded Loop Trails. *Jim has led 3 hikes so far, and one more in October on Shelburne loop roads.*
  - Mini-Grants – Ready to go? (Terry) *Terry is still compiling a list of schools to contact in addition to past grantees Alia Woofenden & David Conlon. Suggestions? Jim will send the template he has to Terry. Charlie suggests contacting David Smith at Turners Falls HS.*
- **[Science]:** (**Lead?**)

**New and Old Business:**

**Next meeting: October 17, 2022, 6:00 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.