

**DEERFIELD RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION  
MEETING MINUTES**

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

**LOCATION:** **Google Meet this month.**

|   |                   |   |                 |
|---|-------------------|---|-----------------|
|   |                   | X | Chris Bathurst  |
| X | Charlie Olchowski | X | Ryan O'Donnell  |
|   | 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 – **November 21, 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)
  - MassDOT Stillwater Bridge replacement design hearing - Review and **vote on draft** comment letter (Jim) *Jim attended. We are now on MA DOT's radar with our comments on bridge replacement regarding erosion undercutting piers to bridge, heavy recreational use, ... Chris C mentioned these edits to the DRWA Comment Letter: using Jersey barriers made it impossible to see the view of the river, hoping they will not use materials that block the view and maybe use metal railing that you can see through. Thinks we should bring up adequate erosion controls in place to address water quality issues. Jim says this is federal law, but Chris thinks this should be brought up anyway.*

- Sixty - custom Thank You cards have been printed for 2022 donors. Cards will go out in January when we have a complete list of 2022 donors.
- DRWA Board of Directors Search for Additional Directors: (All)
  - Did anyone talk to: Mike Vito, TU, ex-president? *Sheila will talk to him when she thinks the time is right; ex presidents still have an active role in T.U., and he's there for another year.*
  - Thoughts on **2023** Officers? Vote at the January 16th meeting. President; 1st VP; 2nd VP; Treasurer; Secretary. Other specialties? *Such as H2O quality monitoring, Wild & Scenic, etc.*
- Mail & Email Call: Do we have any? (Jim)
- CRC Liaison: Latest news. (Ryan)
- **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)
  - Franklin County Rivers Source to Sea Cleanup (formerly, The Green River Cleanup) and the Greenfield City Cleanup. – Status Update. (David Boles, Charlie Olchowski )
  - 
  - Green River Watershed Alliance - Status Update. (Ryan O'Donnell and David Boles)
    - The Green River Watershed Alliance (Windham Regional Commission) held a Zoom Meeting on **November 30**, to discuss bi-state cooperation on the Green River Watershed. The hope is that we will help with mailing out letters and brochures to Massachusetts residents of the Green River watershed this coming year (2023) and host hikes and events in the watershed. Jim mentioned that we could probably come up with a few hundred dollars for mailings if the Windham Regional Commission is not successful in getting a grant. We should also identify possible Massachusetts Green River programming for 2023? 2024? that could go into a letter accompanying the brochure. Something like the Green River and Franklin Rivers Cleanup and possible informational gatherings and hikes (*Charlie or David might be willing?*). *Ryan mentioned that the next iteration might be the smaller towns, then Geenfield.*
  - Monitoring – Status Update. Progress on 2021 and 2022 Annual Reports? (Ryan O'Donnell) *Ryan got 2022 results back from VT already. His plan is to put together 2021-22 report next month. They're in process of*

*nominating the sites for the next round of monitoring. Chris C wants to know if MA sites are nominated the same way. Ryan says VT is pickier because they pay for monitoring nitrogen, .... Chris C mentions the presence of green color and algae he is concerned about in Savage Farm, Deerfield area, which he thinks might be related to turf farming, just below I-91, where he sees a dramatic change at certain times. Charlie mentions Melnick farm is a factor also. Talk of getting a grant for studying this.*

- Wild & Scenic Rivers – Status. Next steps. Legislative progress. (Chris Curtis with Charlie Olchowski and Patrick McCoy)
  - *We finally have some good traction on the Senate side on getting the Deerfield Wild and Scenic River study bill included in a bigger public lands package. The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is working on getting agreement on including it, and the odds look good. Good news on Nov. 14th, Sen. Markey's office said they have good news on their end. Also heard from Barre in Sen. Leahy's office. The Public Lands package looks like the way it can happen. Best news he's had since July. Congress switches over on Jan. 3rd. He thinks odds for passing this session are low, but good progress has been made. Thanks from Charlie & Jack on Chris' efforts.*
- Woodlands Partnership of Northwest MA – Status Update. (Sheila Kelliher)
  - Reported to the Woodlands Partnership of Northwest MA, that based on our vote, Sheila continues to be our representative. *Sheila mentions getting the town of Florida involved.*
- Trout Unlimited – Updates on what Trout Unlimited has been up to on the Deerfield River. (Sheila Kelliher) *In February, they're having a meeting with 2 VT chapters, 3rd year they've done this. Guides invited and projects discussed for the different chapters.*
- Mass Rivers Alliance - Current issues. (Sheila Kelliher) (Jim)
  - Jim attended the **Mass Rivers Alliance Annual Meeting** via Zoom.
    - **Drought:** They discussed all of their accomplishments on drought resiliency, legislation, etc. *Jim got a lot of emails about the drought.*
    - **Water Quality:** Accomplishments, including reporting of sewage releases; lobbied MassDEP for increases in water quality grants.
    - **Member services.**
    - **Plans for 2023.** Starting a **stormwater assistance program.** Lobbying in Boston on river issues.
- Trail Maintenance – Status. (Chris Curtis, Chris Bathurst, Jim Perry)

- Chris and Jim plan on meeting with the new Director of the Franklin Land Trust January 3 to discuss existing easements along the Mohican-Mohawk Trail river section. *Copies of documents so Jim can scan, Chris wants to discuss easements, trail maintenance, general strategy for dealing with landowners. Charlie mentions offering a legal perspective on easements. Chris thinks they may be handshake agreements and letters of agreement, but nothing formal. Charlie thinks the basis of Native American establishment of this trail hundreds of years ago may make it unlawful to oppose any part of the trail access. Jim says there's not a definite knowledge of where the trail went.*
- *Chris tried reaching out to CSX Railroad without response, but recently found another contact for CSX. He also reached out to Ms. Herrera (Larry Gould relative) regarding meeting with her.*
- Deerfield River Recreation Management Plan – Status. A study? (Jim Perry)
  - **Deerfield River Stakeholders Meeting** - First meeting in 2 years planned: (Jim sent out Zoom and Meeting link)
    - Time: Dec 21, 2022 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
  - Big turnover on the Town of Charlemont Selectboard (2 out of 3 gone)
- **Website Maintenance, Google Docs, Email System:** (Patrick McCoy) Status - *Winter newsletter has been posted. Ryan says he met with Ron and Chris at CRC. They're trying to get glitches and everything fixed and back on track by February. Patrick says we don't even have a balance sheet. Mallory's been great about tracking donations, but we have no budget info! Ryan says they're in crunch mode including finances, so we should have that info soon.*
- **Financial Report:** Review Mallory's Financial Report. (Patrick)
  - **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) *Jim got a letter from Gardiner Falls in Buckland regarding recreation plans, closed tailrace, meeting sometime in January. He will notice us when the date is decided. New splash boards on the dam, but some vandalism at the power plant.*

- **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)
    - The Fall Appeal letter has been sent out. Did anyone not receive a copy?
    - CRC formatted a draft December newsletter and is working on a similar E-news. *Will be mailed emailed (tomorrow) soon*
- **Education:** (Terry Atkinson)
  - Education Outreach:
  - Mini-Grants – **VOTE:** Vote on Mohawk Trail Regional School Trash Cans with Lids mini-grant application for \$250. *All of us agree that we should ask Alia to tie her grant more closely to a watershed project, but the grant for \$250 was approved this time. Alia needs to let us know who the check should be made out to; Ryan will get the invoice to Mallory at CRC.*
- **[Science]:** (Lead?)

**New and Old Business:**

**Next meeting: January 16, 2022, 6:00 PM**

**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.