

**DEERFIELD RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** Monday, January 16, 2023 **TIME:** 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**LOCATION:** Google Meet this month.

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

**Special Guests:**

- **Jack Widness** - VT Representative; *Can't attend this eve.*
- **Bruce Lessels** (former DRWA VP and former owner of Zoar Outdoor)

*Bruce introduced himself as a past president of DRWA who is still very interested and has a recreational connection as past owner of Zoar Outdoor.*

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

**LIST OF TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED**

--Call to order

--Review past minutes – **December 19, 2022** (Jim Perry) *Minutes approved.*

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

**Board Member Reports -**

- **President & Vice Presidents:** (Jim Perry – President; Chris Curtis – 1st VP; Charlie Olchowski 2nd VP)  
*Jim says Art Schwenger has resigned from the board at this time for personal reasons, but wants to be kept in mind if help is needed on any projects.*

- MassDOT Stillwater Bridge replacement design hearing - As approved by the Board, a comment letter was sent to MassDOT via email and paper mail. Topics included maintaining Recreation access and Views of the River from the Bridge. (Jim)
- Grant funding - Signed onto a **MassTrails** letter to the new MA Governor Healey/Driscoll Transition Team to support **trail grant funding**.
- Thank You Cards - Started to send out 2022 donor Thank You cards. 17 cards went out to those who donated \$100 or more. Next step, letters to the smaller donors including the companies that donated food to the Franklin County Rivers Cleanup. The final Thank You cards will go out in January when we have a complete list of 2022 donors. *Jim will go over the list outside of meeting with David regarding food donors who should be thanked.*
- DRWA Board of Directors Search for Additional Directors: **Bruce Lessels** (former **DRWA VP** and former owner of **Zoar Outdoor**) is sitting in on tonight's meeting as a prospective Board Member.
- Annual Board Elections:
  - 20**23** Officers - **Nominations** and **VOTE**:
    - 2022 Existing 2023
    - Officers
      - **President** - Jim Perry; *Jim willing to stay on for another year if his health remains o.k.*
      - **1st Vice President** - Chris Curtis;
      - **2nd Vice President** - Charlie Olchowski;
      - **Treasurer** - Patrick McCoy;
      - **Secretary** - Terry Atkinson;
      - *All others are interested in continuing with their current positions.*
    - Areas of Focus
      - **Northern Watershed** - Jack Widness;
      - **Franklin County Rivers Cleanup +** - David Boles; Charlie Olchowski; *Jim says we need more good photos; photographer wanted!*
      - **Green River Watershed Alliance** - Ryan O'Donnell; David Boles; *David relates the salt issue importance.*
      - **Monitoring** - Ryan O'Donnell;
      - **Wild & Scenic Rivers** - Chris Curtis; with Charlie Olchowski and Patrick McCoy;
      - **Woodlands Partnership of Northwest MA** - (Sheila)
      - **Trout Unlimited** - Sheila Kelliher;

- **Mass Rivers Alliance** - Sheila Kelliher; *Sheila may be unable to attend as many meetings, says Chris Bathurst expressed an interest.*
- **Trail Maintenance** - Jim Perry; Chris Curtis; Chris Bathurst;
- **Deerfield River Recreation Management Plan** - Jim Perry;
- **Website Maintenance**, Google Docs, Email System - Patrick McCoy;
- **Relicensing** - Chris Curtis *is not interested in continuing due to other obligations (Wild & Scenic).* Bruce Lessels may be interested.
- **Membership & Community Outreach** (open)
  - **Instagram** - Sheila Kelliher; Ryan O'Donnell;
  - **Facebook** - Ryan O' Donnell;
  - **Newsletters** - Jim Perry;
- **Education** - Terry Atkinson;
- **Science** - (Open); *David Bowles is interested in the salt issue.*
- Mail & Email Call: Do we have any? (Jim)
- CRC Liaison: Latest news. (Ryan)
  - Did our MassRivers dues get paid? *Ryan says it is in the paid or will be paid phase within next 2 weeks.*
  - Did our mini-grant \$250 check go out to Mohawk Trail Regional School? *Terry, check to see if the check has been received before the next meeting.*
- **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) *No update tonight.*
  - Franklin County Rivers Source to Sea Cleanup (formerly, The Green River Cleanup) and the Greenfield City Cleanup. – Status Update. (David Boles, Charlie Olchowski)
    - CRC Donations: Change to what was previously reported by Jim. The Greenfield Savings Bank \$2,500 and the Greenfield Cooperative Bank \$250 donations were for the CRC Source to Sea Cleanup, not for DRWA.
    - DRWA Donations: Cash donations were from Macklin Construction \$100, Animal Crackers \$50, and Richard and Susan Flye \$50 for a **total of \$200**, but there were many food donations that we would

have normally paid for. (Jim) *Jim was disappointed in the lack of response from cleanup donation appeal letters we sent out, and wants to know if we should do anything different.*

- Green River Watershed Alliance - Status Update. (Ryan O'Donnell and David Boles) *Nothing new per Ryan.*
- Monitoring – Status Update. Progress on 2021 and 2022 Annual Reports? (Ryan O'Donnell) *Will be done soon.*
- Wild & Scenic Rivers – Status. Next steps. Legislative progress vs Start assessment alone with other sources of funding. (Chris Curtis with Charlie Olchowski and Patrick McCoy) *Chris got a letter from McGovern's aide saying they're getting ready to refile the bill in Congress, as it did not go through in the last session. Also is working with Sen. Markey to get it filed on the Senate side. New VT Rep. Bolindt: Chris will be seeking co-sponsorship from him. Chris is concerned about losing community support and momentum; scheduled meeting with NPS:*
  - Discussed with **National Park Service** staff an alternative approach to our Wild and Scenic initiative (going to Plan B 😊!). The short version is that we discussed combining the potential Vermont Community Foundation (VCF) **grant** with some **NPS funding** to undertake a "reconnaissance study" for wild & scenic. This would get our initiative kick started in the absence of Congressional action. *The NPS got York River in Maine & Housatonic in CT approved for Wild & Scenic. Realistically it takes 2 sessions of Congress to pass this. Chris will ask for a hearing to get the bill before Congress. NPS often does a reconnaissance study that does a preliminary, lower cost budget for this type of study. Talked about getting the \$10,000 VCF grant plus NPS funding of \$25,000. Chris is excited about this being successful. He wants to make a motion to send a letter to Rep. McGovern to apply for this NPS funding. Chris will take the lead on this. Other rivers have found success with this approach (York R., Wood Pauketuk Rivers in R.I., & Nashua R. in NH).*
  - **Vermont Community Foundation (VCF) grant:** Deadline - Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 5 pm. Grant Limits - Ranging from \$2,000-\$10,000. Proposals ready for review? Who signs off? CRC or DRWA? *Chris wants to apply under Deerfield River Enhancement Fund (name correction?) Tasks will be setting up a study committee and identification of potentially outstanding values. (There are a total of 7 tasks, but these are the only 2 under this grant.) Thinks this has to be submitted by CRC, and Ryan says we*

*don't need approval from CRC. Chris wants approval by DRWA to be listed as project personnel to do some of the work on this and has verified that he can work on a paid project without conflict of interest, as long as he doesn't vote on issues related to it. States that more staff may be needed if the NPS grant comes through. Sheila asks if there may be room for another staff person, but Chris says it's a lot of work and not much money. Chris thinks work has to be completed by June of 2023. Motion carries to approve Chris as project personnel. Chris abstains.*

- Woodlands Partnership of Northwest MA – Status Update. (Sheila Kelliher *Nothing new.*)
- Trout Unlimited – Updates on what Trout Unlimited has been up to on the Deerfield River. (Sheila Kelliher) *Per Sheila, Alan Sturmer voted in as board member.*
  - 2022 Accomplishments
    - We negotiated an agreement (pending formal acceptance by FERC) to procure favorable minimum flows throughout the winter incubation period for wild brown trout eggs in the Upper Deerfield River;
    - We finished placing heavy wood in two miles of Rice Brook through our Brook Trout Habitat Enhancement Project;
    - We planted over two hundred trees and shrubs in a half-mile section along the Bear River that was devastated by a freak winter tornado in 2017;
    - We began our investigation into the wild rainbow trout population throughout the Deerfield Watershed;
    - We assisted MA Fish and Wildlife to complete fish aggregation surveys on two reaches of the Clesson Brook system, as well as identify four previously unidentified wild rainbow trout streams and one new coldwater fish resource;
    - We cleaned up three sections along the Deerfield River as part of the Source-to-Sea Cleanup;
    - We initiated an Invasive Species Plant Eradication Project; and
    - We revised our website to make it cleaner and easier to navigate.
- Mass Rivers Alliance - Current issues. (Sheila Kelliher) (Jim)
- Trail Maintenance – Status. (Chris Curtis, Chris Bathurst, Jim Perry)
  - Chris and Jim met with the new Director of the Franklin Land Trust on January 3 to discuss existing **easements** along the Mohican-Mohawk Trail river section. There are four recorded easements for

properties upstream of Bardwell Ferry Bridge and we were given digital copies of the first page of each. *Jim cites that some of these easements are more of a handshake agreement. There are no easements with CSX or the Hydropower company.*

- Discussions regarding trail grants. *Chris wants to work with Franklin Land Trust as partners in improving trails. Good positive meeting, hoping to get more formal trail easements where they don't exist and look to hiring someone to do maintenance in future.*
- Discussions with the Railroad. *Chris has been pursuing no trespassing signs issue and is looking for a person to connect with at CSX. Bardwell's Ferry area has a CSX crossing that they will not approve. Chris proposes changing that crossing to go beneath the CSX trestle. People he has talked to thought it looked doable.*

○ Deerfield River Recreation Management Plan – Status. (Jim Perry)

- **Deerfield River Stakeholders Meeting** - First meeting in 2 years was held Dec 21, 2022 02:00 PM.
- The Draft River Recreation Study was reviewed and Draft Study **comments** were sent to the Board for review by Jim and on to FRCOG. A short survey was filled out by Jim for DRWA outlining the DRWA priorities for implementation of the River Recreation Study. *Waiting on final study results per Jim. There were a lot of issues raised and proposals made. Thinks they should have a group of people form like an agency, to formalize the group of people who are managing this now. Eg. a common management of all the areas along the river. Chris states that many of the places where people are exiting the river are on private property; Jim states there are fairly conservative parties involved that don't want any particular party coming in to say they're in charge of the river. There are two new Charlemont selectboard members, and there is ongoing discussion in the Recorder Newspaper on how the town will use the \$500,000 recreation grant they had received from the State.*

● **Website Maintenance, Google Docs, Email System:** (Patrick McCoy) Status -

● **Financial Report:** Review Mallory's Financial Report. (Patrick) *Patrick absent.*

- Jim and Patrick are meeting with CRC financial staff on January 27 at 9:30 AM. *Hope to find out how the budget/finances look this year.*
- **Last Updated: July 18, 2022**
  - **2021** Budget: \$4900.00
  - Surplus: \$4479.24
  - Donations/Income: \$8,614.22
  - Expenses: \$4,134.98 (**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)
  - Gardner Falls - We are waiting on a meeting to discuss recreation issues. (Jim) *There are some trail problems and a high bridge that needs attention.*
- **Membership & Community Outreach:**
  - DRWA Instagram Account – (Sheila & Ryan)
  - Facebook Account – (Ryan)
  - Newsletters - (Jim)
    - CRC sent out our winter E-news and paper newsletter. Did anyone not receive them other than Sheila?
- **Education:** (Terry Atkinson)
  - Education Outreach:
  - Mini-Grants – **Has CRC** sent the check to Mohawk Trail Regional School for Trash Cans with Lids, mini-grant application for \$250. *Waiting to see if David Smith will apply.*
- **[Science]:** (Lead?)

**New and Old Business:**

**Next meeting: February 20, 2023, 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.