

**DEERFIELD RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: **Monday, May 15, 2023** **TIME:** **6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

LOCATION: **Google Meet this month.**

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

Special Guests:

- **Jack Widness** - VT Representative (absent)
- **Arianna Collins** - Hoosic River Watershed Association

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

LIST OF TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED

--Call to order

--Review past minutes – **April 17, 2023** (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)
 - Arianna Collins - The Housatonic River Watershed Association *They are based in Hoosac Watershed, south & north branches and meet in N. Adams, north & west through Pownal, empties into Hudson River. They do a lot of monitoring within the Housatonic Watershed and others, and do river cleanups with New York, river & trailside cleanups in Pownal VT. Other partnerships include LaRosa and others in monitoring. Their samples go to Berkshire Community College, 9 sites monitored. They used to do more walks. Have been around for 37 years (1986). Best activities work best with other nonprofits in partnership. Asks if we are*

part of Woodlands Partnership, and says we could be working together. Riverworks is another project they're doing, funded in conjunction with artists, poetry and music about the river. Will have a concert afterwards. (note: much of what Arianna said went by too fast to type! Hopefully she'll send a synopsis.) She asks about some of the activities we do, so we can possibly work together. Jim mentions things we work on, including: Wild & Scenic Rivers, hikes, graffiti removal, river cleanups, river recreation, etc. ...They received a \$3 million grant for studying ways of mitigating flooding of the Hoosac River! (Terry requested she send a synopsis of her organization and associations, preferably not just links.) Hoosic River Watershed Association = HooRWA (Arianna sent email about the organization; will forward to Jim.)

- Watershed Group Meeting - Held May 5 at Smith College Greenhouses.
 - Kelsey Wentling - CRC Mass River Steward organized the **first Annual Meeting**. Four or five local watershed groups were represented and briefly shared their experiences. The groups consisted of everything from mostly one-person or two person organizations to organizations with substantial support from College professionals and students. *Jim was present and said we're fortunate to have a larger board, but noticed some boards are run by professors or staff who can involve students in their activities and interests as part of their job.*
 - The thought that maybe these group meetings should be held twice a year. *Jim suggests we can have other board members attend in his stead. One key concern he heard is a watershed association who has a very large watershed, but only one volunteer to run the show and that person worries about who will run the association when he's done.*
- North River Restoration Project presentation & field trip was held Saturday, May 13.
 - Jim and Charlie attended. We first met at the FRCOG office for presentations, then drove up river and looked at the Cromack Project (DRWA) from across the river and walked part of the Dornbush Project (CRC). It was a good turnout. Lots of good lessons learned and discussions. *Good presentations, then interesting to see how growth and maintenance and suppression of knotweed has been successful. Also, even when water has been high on the bank, the buffering has worked well and stabilization is effective. They wanted to put fish structures in, but one person with*

the State disagreed due to the effect on an endangered dragonfly population.

- CRC had provided planning, budgeting, and oversight for both project areas.
- DRWA Search for Additional Directors (ongoing):
- Mail & Email Call: Do we have any? (Jim)
- CRC Liaison: Latest news. (Ryan) *New executive director search position posted. Finance was able to hire temp help to catch up, and it's really helping.*
- **Watershed Projects:**
 - Northern Watershed Update - Update on what types of issues and actions are occurring in the Vermont end of the Deerfield River watershed. (Jack Widness)
 - Jim contacted TU to let them know we had voted to approve \$100 toward full sponsorship of the fall angling movie showing in VT.
 - Franklin County Rivers Source to Sea Cleanup (formerly, The Green River Cleanup) and the Greenfield City Cleanup. – Status Update. (David Boles, Charlie Olchowski) *Blue bag cleanup went really well, 700 bags given out. More sites outside of Greenfield have been put on list for cleanup, David is hoping this will make it more like a Franklin County cleanup. He has some large sponsors on board. PV Squared will help with some equipment. David asks Bruce if he's aware of a large dump on Conway/Shelburne line, probably has over 1,000 appliances! He feels it's an enormous dump that everyone has turned their back on, located about 1,000 feet from the Deerfield confluence. Maple Brook is now under assessment; he says it's the single biggest source of pollution in Green River, and it runs under Kennametal. Bruce Lessels suggests a raft trip tour of such sites! Terry suggested seeing the area in Green River where lamprey are nesting. Jim & David Boles suggest inviting Paul Franz and someone who writes for the Recorder to come along. Dave says a group of students in Deerfield are doing a cleanup; pictures and an article requested.*
 - Green River Watershed Alliance - Status Update. (Ryan O'Donnell and David Boles)
 - Green River Music Festival - June 23-25 (Chris) *Chris not present. Patrick asks if we have anyone to do a new sign/logo for our booth at the festival. Jim sent a link to Patrick for the document for the booth coverage schedule. Activities suggested: carving/painting rocks, fishing/casting, small creature displays, holding a sign of "Ask me where to swim in the Deerfield & Green Rivers"*

- Please sign up for time slots. Contact Chris.
 - Booth Theme and Activities to attract people to the booth.
 - Purchases (tent), Booth display and handout needs, etc.
- Monitoring – Status Update. Progress on 2021 and 2022 Annual Reports? (Ryan O'Donnell) *We got the DEP grant which means the cost of monitoring to DRWA will be a lot less. I'll be sending out MOUs with estimated costs for the season at the beginning of June. Shoot me an email if you need anything from me.*
- Wild & Scenic Rivers – Status. Next steps. (Chris Curtis with Charlie Olchowski and Patrick McCoy)
- Trail Maintenance – Status. (Chris Curtis, Chris Bathurst, Jim Perry)
 - A site visit to the Bardwell's Ferry/CSX trail section is scheduled for Sunday, June 4 at 10:00 AM. Sign up with Chris.
 - Lady Slipper High Ledges **guided hike** is planned to be held Sunday, May 21, 9 - 12. Jim is leading the hike, but a **“sweep” with a car is needed** in case someone fades on the hike and needs to be escorted back to the cars early. *Meeting at Arms Library and carpooling to High Ledges. Needs someone to walk back for anyone who can't make the entire hike. Please sign up to be a “sweep.”*
- Deerfield River - Recreation Management Planning - Status: (Bruce Lessels)
 - *Bruce had a conversation with Jessica Atwood - FRCOG about the status of River Recreation Planning.*
 - *The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) completed the outdoor rec study, but it sounds like they're struggling a bit to find staff time to follow up. If it's not funded, they can't do it.*
 - *She's working with the Chamber of Commerce to fund the porta-potties at the Shunpike and she thinks the chamber can find the funding for a second porta-potty.*
 - *Jessica is still hoping to promote the online visitors survey on the sides of the porta-potties.*
 - *Jessica confirmed that they distributed the upper valley public safety map that the FRCOG produced as a result of stakeholder meetings last year to the hydro companies and state police last fall. Police are funded to be at access points, but Bruce thinks it hasn't done much, because they don't do anything until something is actionable, rather than directing appropriate river access, proper litter disposal,*

importance of using life jackets, etc, i.e. to act more like rangers. Town of Charlemont, interested parties, and police would have to be on board. Bruce thinks the police would be willing and interested. Jim thinks Bruce is the right person to meet with them and inform them of the good they could do in partnering with us. David says the signs made for the Green River in Spanish & English have been very helpful, and the river is cleaner. Bruce says Sarah is working on signs.

- *They haven't convened the stakeholders group because staff hasn't had capacity to do it. They're hoping to convene it, but not sure what the timing will be. Bruce suggested a meeting to get law enforcement on the same page around river use so they can see their roles as more than just waiting for a problem. Jessica said she'll run that by Linda Dunlavy and get back to me.*
- *Not sure how Charlemont is spending their \$500,000 state river recreation grant money.*
- Relicensing - Status. (Bruce Lessels)
 - Gardner Falls Hydroelectric Project - (Jim & Bruce)
 - Central Rivers Power - Gardner Falls Hydroelectric Project - **DRWA, CRC, Shelburne, and Buckland** all signed onto and submitted a joint set of comments on the Draft - Revised Recreation Management Plan.
 - The current owner of the facility was concerned about issues raised by our comments and asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for, and received, a delay until Sep 1, 2023 , to submit a Revised Recreation Management Plan. *They don't want us to appeal to FERC*
 - The owner is researching commitments the previous owners made to FERC.
 - Jim was contacted by the owner about holding a **small group meeting** to discuss and work through the comments. The plan is for the owner to invite group representatives: Jim - DRWA & Shelburne; Kelsey - CRC; Andrea Donlon - Buckland; Bruce - DRWA & Buckland. *Jim sent our comments to everyone on the email list that was fortuitously sent out to them. Jim asked Central Rivers Power to send out a doodle poll of when people could meet. Bruce says they should be given a timeline!*

- **Woodlands Partnership of Northwest MA** – Status Update. (Sheila Kelliher) *No updates, sub-committee has not met. She hasn't received any information, but Jim gets info from Town of Shelburne representative. Jim wonders whether DRWA can apply directly for a grant to do the trail work near the CSX railroad and construction needed in conjunction with that work.*
- **Trout Unlimited** – Updates on what Trout Unlimited has been up to on the Deerfield River. (Sheila Kelliher) *Mass Fish & Game announced their most recent report on wild brown trout study: 80% of brown trout are wild, so they will not be stocked, but still stocking rainbows, which will be another study. Carrie Banks will be talking at GCC. TU was awarded \$26,000 for Upper Deerfield study for water quality monitoring, camera flow monitoring, and more. Jim says we can put any study reporting on our website.*
- **Mass Rivers Alliance** - Current issues. (Chris Bathurst) *No updates, but he posted the next meeting with Jim. He sat in with the small group, but nothing salient to share with us.*
- **Website Maintenance, Google Docs, Email System:** (Patrick McCoy) Status - *Nothing new except for voting (?)*
 - Bruce and Patrick updated our river recreation website page.
- **Financial Report:** Review Mallory's Financial Report. (Patrick)
 - **Last Updated: March 2023**
 - 2023 Budget - No Spreadsheet has been created.
 - Amount of money held in our account with CRC - No final accounting. *Patrick understands how underwater they are, but we are not getting any information from them.*
 - **2022** Budget - End-of-Year Report:
 - Donations/Income: \$7,932.18
 - Expenses: \$3,070.08 (**includes** Monitoring cost)
 - Net Income: \$4,862.10
- **Secretary:** (Terry) *Jim will add notes to Ariana's information from HOORA*
- **Membership & Community Outreach:**
 - DRWA Instagram Account – (Sheila & Ryan) *nothing new*
 - Facebook Account – (Ryan) *Terry mentioned her birthday fundraiser on Facebook raised \$150 for DRWA. Jim didn't receive notification of contributions and hopes CRC will share it.*
 - Newsletters & Appeals - (Jim) *There will be a one-page newsletter out soon.*
- **Education:** (Terry Atkinson)
 - Education Outreach: *Terry suggests we possibly send out an email soon to school principals in advance of next year, so that they can forward to teachers who might want a presentation on behalf of DRWA and river stewardship.*

- Mini-Grants – Terry emailed Alia for an update on mini-grant and found out she is no longer working at MTRSD, but the reply from her school email provided a new email contact; will follow up.
- [Science]: (Lead?) Terry expressed an interest but will need organizational support.

New and Old Business:

Next meeting: June 19, 2023, 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.