

**DEERFIELD RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** Monday, June 19, 2023 **TIME:** 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**LOCATION:** Google Meet this month.

X	Bruce Lessels		<b>Chris Bathurst</b>
	<b>Charlie Olchowski</b>		<b>Ryan O'Donnell</b>
	<b>David Boles</b>		<b>Sheila Kelliher</b>
X	Jim Perry	X	Terry Atkinson
	<b>Chris Curtis</b>		<b>Patrick McCoy</b>

**Special Guests:**

- **Jack Widness** - VT Representative *Jim will be receiving a letter about an event TU is putting on in September. They're trying to create new members, generate interest, and are presenting a flyfishing movie at the Latchis in Brattleboro. One segment is about the Deerfield River. They'd like to send some of the proceeds to Wild & Scenic Rivers effort (he's been trying to reach Chris C). He'd like to have one contact person in group; Jim volunteered. They'd like \$100 in partnership from DRWA towards supporting event. Jim says we voted to approve this last month.*
- *They're still awaiting news of a grant within a week or so.*
- *In VT, DRWA has supported TU in regard to use wake boats on lakes in VT within the Deerfield Watershed. The Connecticut River is not within purview, because it's not an inland water body. Jack is asking for letters of support from organizations and individuals; he will be sending out a request. They are asking for 1,000' v DEC asking for only 500' operation of wake boats offshore. Boat dealers and boat owners are on the opposite side, but they are actually in the minority. Less than 1 wake boat per 1,000 boats in VT are wake boats. This may have national implications; Jack is part of a national group that meets online about this.*

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

## LIST OF TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED

--Call to order

--Review past minutes – **May 15, 2023** (Jim Perry)

--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)
  - DRWA Search for Additional Directors (ongoing):
  - 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)
  - Green River Music Festival - June 23-25 (Co-Leads - Patrick & Chris C)
    - Please sign up for time slots. All information is at this link:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Asp0ybc6Jp7aKdrPcbOHo543H47j-jDI3AIWV9y9Ppc/edit?usp=sharing>
    - We need tables....*Terry has a table or 2 ...***Email Chris C & Patrick!**
    - Booth Theme and Activities to attract people to the booth?
    - Setup Time, 9:30 AM on Friday. Passes?
    - Chris C picked up the new DRWA tent at CRC, and will bring that for setup next Friday.
  - 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)
  - Monitoring – Status Update. Progress on 2021 and 2022 Annual Reports? (Ryan O'Donnell)
  - Wild & Scenic Rivers – Status. Next steps. (Chris Curtis with Charlie Olchowski and Patrick McCoy)
    - The U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources' Subcommittee on National Parks has scheduled a hearing on our bill for Wednesday, June 21. This is thanks to the efforts of Senator Markey's office.
    - DRWA has been invited to submit written testimony on this bill by Senator Markey's office. Chris C prepared a draft letter of support for DRWA's testimony and sent it to the Board on June 15, for review and an email vote. Chris submitted the updated version to

the congressional representatives over the weekend. **Motion to send the letter was approved by the board.**

- Trail Maintenance – Status. (Chris Curtis, Chris Bathurst, Jim Perry)
  - A site visit to the Bardwell's Ferry/CSX trail section was held on Sunday, June 4 at 10:00 AM. Attendees: Chris C, Chris B, Patrick M, Jim P.
    - The hike went well. A lot of poison ivy though.
    - Very steep RR fill slopes through the forest to traverse. About 150 feet in total. Looking for ideas on how it can be done. Two short sections to cross and one very steep 115-foot and very unstable section to cross. *How can we affordably get across that?*
    - A 45-foot or so long falling RR debris protection shed would have to be built under the RR trestle. *Will CSX pay for it? Hydro companies are responsible for that under relicensing, but Jim feels we should at least approach them. You have to go online to look at their system, which seems impenetrable so far. Bruce Lessels suggests talking to Sam Bartlett, who is in charge of Trolley Museum and may have an understanding of how things work. We can't even get permission to walk their land.*
    - Much of the old trail is in fairly good shape. Some stairs need replacement. Some fallen trees need to be removed, but not much.
    - There is at least one creek crossing that would be tricky to construct a bridge across due to flooding. One possibility is to go with stepping stones that could be used during low flows. (Although, that may be problematic too, as one person in our group fell in the creek stepping on a slippery stone). There is another creek crossing farther down the trail that we did not get to. It might be located in the closed section of the trail. *Jim isn't sure how they'd even build a bridge over it due to high water, etc.*
  - Jim led an Urban Trees of Shelburne Falls walk on June 10, with 12 participants. Another enjoyable hike. *Jim has run out of ideas for where else to hike around Shelburne. They talked about trees, which ones get diseases, native trees, the trees that work best along streetscapes (non-native) v. foreign trees (more adaptable to growing in the tighter conditions and are more disease resistant).*

- Deerfield River - Recreation Management Planning - Status: (Bruce Lessels) *Bruce hasn't heard anything, has started a write-up about how police presence can be better managed from outfitters' point of view. They're trying to manage those that are drunk & out of control affecting their family trips, which is a mutual interest for police. He plans to contact other outfitters, who are out there all the time, with what they've observed. Jim mentions the problem of random take-outs and people getting stranded, separated from their families, in relation to their vehicles. Bruce says outfitters are aware, and police could help in this role to educate people to be mindful of where they go in and where they're getting out. Bruce says currently people are not required to wear lifejackets if tubing; he thinks they should be required of tubers as well as rafters. Outfitters supply them to rafters, but they can't enforce them being worn. Jim mentions handouts given to police with safety rules & practices might be a good idea. Bruce thinks FRCOG could help with this; the politics are complicated, and the selectboard would likely be on board. Jim thinks police could help with prevention that would lessen the number of rescues.*
- Relicensing - Status. (Bruce Lessels)
  - Gardner Falls Hydroelectric Project - (Jim & Bruce)
    - Central Rivers Power - Gardner Falls Hydroelectric Project - **DRWA, CRC, Shelburne, and Buckland** all had signed onto and submitted a joint set of comments on the owner's Draft - Revised Recreation Management Plan. The current owner of the facility is 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.
    - 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 and our group of town and conservation representatives: Jim - DRWA & Shelburne; Kelsey - CRC; Andrea Donlon - Buckland (cannot attend); Bruce - DRWA & Buckland, to meet the owner at the Buckland Town Hall on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, to discuss the owners concerns with our comments. *The hope is that they can be held to their commitments and stop stalling. Kelsey of CRC went to the last one; Jim says we need a meeting strategy to avoid one person for the group*

*conceding to the company's position. Bruce will attend with Jim on behalf of DRWA & Buckland.*

- Our group of town and conservation representatives will also hold a **pre-meeting** at 7 PM on Tuesday the 20th to review our comments on the owner's draft plan.
- **Woodlands Partnership of Northwest MA** – Status Update. (Sheila Kelliher) *Bruce says Buckland signed on, thanks to Mike McKusker.*
- **Trout Unlimited** – Updates on what Trout Unlimited has been up to on the Deerfield River. (Sheila Kelliher) *not present*
- **Mass Rivers Alliance** - Current issues. (Chris Bathurst) *not present*
- **Website Maintenance, Google Docs, Email System:** (Patrick McCoy) Status -
- **Financial Report:** Review Mallory's Financial Report. (Patrick) *Can't seem to get a report out of them for financial accounting!*
  - **Last Updated: March 2023**
    - 2023 Budget - A Spreadsheet has not yet been created by CRC with an accounting of funds held in our account by CRC.
    - **2022** Budget - End-of-Year Report:
      - Donations/Income: \$7,932.18
      - Expenses: \$3,070.08 (**includes** Monitoring cost)
        - Net Income: \$4,862.10
  - Donations: Jan 1, thru Jun 1, 2023 **\$826... Did anyone find out if the \$120 from Terry's birthday via Facebook came to DRWA or CRC? Jim & I will check on balance sheet. Problems with whether people received last appeal, and newsletter. Thinks some donation monies are not reflected in the \$826**
- **Membership & Community Outreach:**
  - DRWA Instagram Account – (Sheila & Ryan)
  - Facebook Account – (Ryan)
  - Newsletters & Appeals - (Jim)
- **Education:** (Terry Atkinson)
  - Education Outreach:
  - Mini-Grants –
- **[Science]:** (Terry Atkinson)
  - Connecticut River Fish Passage Counts,
  - Tree Cutting Moratorium in MA?

**New and Old Business:** *Bruce has a question about whether we used to be a membership organization, and whether there would be a benefit to go back to that. Jim says we consider them to be members if they donate, but Bruce wonders whether participation would increase to go back to that. Jim says going back to membership*

drives and tracking membership renewals are a limit on his time. He feels we don't want to be constantly asking for money. He thinks making the "membership" fee structure reflects flexibility. Jim feels attracting more board members and their interests/projects will create more participation. Mention was made of highlighting board members and their projects to generate more interest. American Whitewaters per Bruce says they are trying to get more rivers designated as wild & scenic. He doesn't feel that boaters & fishermen are pitted against each other and that it's never been to anyone's advantage. Jim says a point person/liaison for membership would be beneficial. Annual meetings could come back with a point person. We need someone to coordinate this. Our bylaws are based around membership.

**Next meeting: July 17, 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.

