

**DEERFIELD RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: Monday, August 21, 2023 **TIME:** 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

LOCATION: Google Meet this month.

DRWA Board Meeting –

“Google Meet” - Please Log in a bit early.

Monday, **August 21, 2023** · 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Google Meet

x	Bruce Lessels		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 - *present*

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

LIST OF TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED

--Call to order

--Review past minutes – **July 17, 2023** **Vote to Consider Approval** (Jim Perry)

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)
 - RiverFest - DRWA had a table Aug 5 staffed by Jim at American Whitewater's Deerfield River Festival at Berkshire East. Jim answered a lot of questions and passed newsletter signups along to CRC to add to our mailing list. *A lot of local folks this time that understood the river and had many questions, as well as people who love the river.*

- Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP) Town of Shelburne: Jim will represent DRWA at the Town of Shelburne at an invitation-only workshop on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 from 9 AM to 3 PM. *State planning. Chris C has a lot of experience with MVP in Deerfield. They did a land prioritization plan to learn which land is important to buy & protect for their grant funding. There are any number of issues for potential funding. Chris will send a copy of their MVP plan*
 - Identify natural hazards that present the greatest threat to the community.
 - Evaluate strengths and vulnerabilities of residents, infrastructure, and natural resources.
 - Develop and prioritize actions that reduce the impact of hazards and increase resilience.
 - Any thoughts or issues to raise from the Board on this? (Jim)
- Outreach Grant - CRC is applying for a \$30k grant from the Community Foundation of Western Mass to increase awareness of local rivers and engagement with the watershed organizations in Western Mass. This was sent to the DRWA Board for review. **WHO WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THE MS TEAMS MEETING too? Jim will send link if interested in attending. Charlie asks Chris to copy him on the plan he's sending**
 - When: Tue Aug 22, 2023 6pm – 7pm (EDT)
 - Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting
 - Who: Angela Chaffee, Brian Yellen, Bruce Stedman, Keith Davies, Ivan Ussach, Jim Perry...
- DRWA Search for Additional Directors and someone to step in for Jim?:
- Mail & Email Call: Do we have any? (Jim)
 - Lots of DRWA emails asking about water quality and safety for boating and floating following the heavy rains.
- CRC Liaison: Latest news. (Ryan) *Attended a meeting with finance & preparation with Jim & Patrick. They're working hard to make sure they do right by us. Good news is they have a good temp for the summer. A new finance assistant is being hired. Things looking better each week and they are prepared to meet with Jim Wednesday at CRC. No update on hiring new Exec. Dir., hopefully soon.*
- **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 is collaborating with TU regarding the upcoming film, also with Sheila and Chris Curtis. Wild & Scenic is one of the beneficiaries of film proceeds. Jack would like Jim to advertise the event on DRWA social*

media. Hopes it will be a good fundraiser; appreciates our help. Chris C says we should all try to go! Thurs., 9/14 6 p.m. at the Latchis! Per Jim, it's going in our newsletter, and Patrick will put up on our website. Per Chris, we can have a table at this event. Terry, Jim, Patrick, & Sheila volunteered to help set up/man the table. Per Jack, tables are provided for us. Chris says a similar set up to the FC Fair will work. Jack says there will be raffles.

- All **board members** are encouraged to at least attend the film.
- Fly Fishing Film Tour Event at Latchis Theater in Brattleboro:
 - September 14th. 6:30 PM
 - TU is asking that we encourage all of our board members to attend, **we can have a table for DRWA, and we'll need some volunteers to help with things.**
 - Here is the website:
 - <https://flyfilmtour.myeventscenter.com/event/Connecticut-River-Valley-Chapter-Of-Trout-79453>
 - Here is the trailer:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FzPGD1SV92s&t=1s>
 - DRWA will post information on the movie to our website, Facebook, Instagram, and send out notification in an ENewsletter.

- **Schedule:**

5:30 pm Have volunteers **prepare lobby** and giveaways display

Set up tables below the Latchis ticket stand

Entrance ticket sales - information on sponsor groups

Set up tables inside Latchis lobby with raffle items – tickets – cash boxes

- At least two volunteers that stay at the inside tables and sell raffle tickets

6:30 pm

- David welcomes everyone mentioning CRVTU, DRTU, CRC, DRWA then introduces
- **Chris Curtis** – What is wild and scenic and what does it mean to fishers?

6:45 pm film starts

7:50 Intermission

Final opportunity to buy raffle tickets.

Make sure script is updated for local sponsor and say thank you to everyone

- Have Jack or Charles make announcement of last buys and restart the film
- At least two volunteers to sell tickets in the viewing room while other are still manning the tables

8:00 pm film resumes

9:00 pm film ends – start pulling raffle tickets mixing top tier with all raffle items.

- David, Jack, Charles pull tickets and announce numbers
 - At least four volunteers if prizes are not near announcers to tables to take ticket holders to prize tables.
- VT Wake Boats:
 - Jim sent the letter of support we had voted on.
 - *Wakeboats in VT will be managed through a petition to the Dept of Natural Resources, asking for 1,000' off shore v. 500' DEC is asking for.*
 - Franklin County Fair - September 7-10, 2023 Th 3-9..Fri 3-9..Sat 10-9. and Sun 10-8 (Jim)
 - **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SETUP, LAYOUT, TAKEDOWN OF DRWA BOOTH *David & Terry volunteered.***
 - We will need to set up an 8' long unstaffed display in a cage with a cage door that lifts up.
 - Franklin County Rivers Source to Sea Cleanup (formerly, The Green River Cleanup) and the Greenfield City Cleanup. – Status Update. (David Boles, Charlie Olchowski) *David says costs will be similar to last year, has sent out about 15 donation requests. Asks that we come up with some sponsors from our DRWA board membership and their associated interests. Sheila says TU is looking for suggestions for an area for major clean up in West County area that they can tackle this year. David suggests area on Ashfield/Buckland line about 150 yards from Deerfield River, eg. large appliances dumped there. Mentions that the plan to*

remove 2,000 more tires from this major project at confluence of Green/Deerfield Rivers, which has stalled! Also a major dump on Nelson Rd still a massive project needing cleanup! David will put this out in a newsletter. Patrick will be happy to coordinate with David on soliciting corporate sponsors he could ask. David has a letter he needs help with the technology end of getting it out. Bruce is also happy to ask for corporate sponsors; he also knows of a couple of appliance dumps which are difficult to access. David says there's an engineering component to this and appreciates everyone's help and eyes & ears as well. Patrick & Jim will look for and upload sponsor letters to Google docs and send out to board. Charlie asks if David has been out enough to see the impact like Hurricane Irene of flooding on how much debris has been spread about. David thinks extensive damage has indeed impacted the rivers, especially amongst the homeless encampments.

- Posted to our website and Facebook. Will send out notification in an ENewsletter.
- Green River Watershed Alliance - Status Update. (Ryan O'Donnell and David Boles) *Ryan will let us know when there's an update.*
- Monitoring – Status Update. (Ryan O'Donnell) *Next week's monitoring date is the last one. Flooding has not disrupted it. Sanitary sewer overflow in Greenfield (not combined sewer overflow). This is not permitted and has existed for a while, located behind Ruggeri's liquor store. Our river steward Kelsey is on it. Chris says we weren't notified adequately; he was swimming that day! Ryan will look into whether notification is happening per recent legislation requiring this. Bacteria levels are always high near the site, but fairly diluted by the time they reach Sunderland, where Chris was swimming. Mainstem is so large that everything is pretty diluted until you get to Springfield/Holyoke.*
- Wild & Scenic Rivers – Status. Next steps. (Chris Curtis with Charlie Olchowski and Patrick McCoy) *No movement on the legislation. Hearing happened June 21st, and July meeting got canceled. Has been trying to reach Sen. Markey's office, but his assistant is being replaced. He says the gridlock in Washington is discouraging. He's going to pursue the National Park Service assistance. Jim says feel free to update the website on things through Patrick. Charlie says McGovern will be at Pine Hill Orchards tomorrow at 10 a.m., possible opportunity to chat with staff.*
 - (Chris C)
- Trail Maintenance – Status. (Chris Curtis, Chris Bathurst, Jim Perry)
 - Hike:

- The next planned hike is a **Late Summer Wildflower Hike** up at the **High Ledges**, Sunday, September 10th, led by Peggy Warwick of the Shelburne Open Space Committee. Once again we will have partnered with the Arms Library and Shelburne Falls Senior Center.
- **WHO WOULD LIKE TO GO ON THE HIKE AND SERVE AS SWEEP?**
- Posted to our Website, Facebook, and will appear in our ENewsletter.
- Deerfield River - Recreation Management Planning - Status: (Bruce Lessels) *Bruce hasn't heard anything more, and the river was too high for being on it. He will talk with the outfitters for most recent issues on the river.*
- Relicensing - Status. (Bruce Lessels)
 - Gardner Falls Hydroelectric Project - (Jim & Bruce)
 - The **Wilcox Hollow Road** has washed out again this year due to improper road design/maintenance and very heavy rains. Patriot Hydro (FERC commitment to recreation) say they are working with Eversource (road owner) to see who will do the road rebuilding and maintenance. *Allen Harris, local citizenship, has taken the lead on this in trying to work with us, CRC, power & hydro companies. People have been walking in from Franklin Land Trust land.*
 - **No recent word back** from **Patriot Hydro** about issues raised by our comments and meeting on their **draft Recreation plan**. They had told the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that by **Sep 1, 2023**, they would submit a Revised Recreation Management Plan. *There has been no movement Jim has heard about.*
 - The Patriot Hydro has been researching commitments the previous owners made to FERC.
- **Woodlands Partnership of Northwest MA** – Status Update. (Sheila Kelliher) S
 - *Sheila got the town of Florida on board.*
 - *Jim says the Woodlands Partnership of NW Mass is looking into planting trees near Buckland-Shelburne school*
- **Trout Unlimited** – Updates on what Trout Unlimited has been up to on the Deerfield River. (Sheila Kelliher) *Tom Rosenbauer from Orvis spoke. 105 people came; it was a great event. They're publicizing the film and looking for cleanup sites.*
- **Mass Rivers Alliance** - Current issues. (Chris Bathurst)

- Mass Rivers Alliance Has been working to schedule an informational tour of Deerfield River issues with DRWA and Deerfield River Trout Unlimited for Saturday, September 9th from 9 - 12 (3 hours)
- **Who would like to join us? DRTU will have several of their members attending.**
- The tour will mostly be TU-focused and likely start at the Barnhardt Dam on the North River to discuss TU's thoughts on dam removal. Then move to Charlemont Center where TU will talk about Rice Brook and adding structure to a stream. Then talk about water quality monitoring, DRWA/CRC vs TU, *what are the roles and interconnections amongst these organizations.* Then talk about culvert replacement.
- DRWA will chime in with watershed issues as we go including:
 - Declining River Access
 - Wild & Scenic River Initiative
 - Our human health monitoring vs TU's fisheries habitat monitoring
 - Dam relicensing and followup issues such as Gardner Falls Recreation & Wilcox Hollow road washouts.
 - Lack of sanitation facilities & parking along the river vs increased use,
 - etc (Jim)
 - *Chris wants to reactivate state initiated Wild & Scenic river to see if they would like to help us pursue that. He will write up something to send Jim.*
- **Website Maintenance, Google Docs, Email System:** (Patrick McCoy) Status -
- **Financial Report:** Review Financial Report. (Patrick) *Reminders*
 - Approval of Expenses: Remember to run all expense invoices **through the DRWA President for approval.** If the **planned expense** is not already in the Approved Budget or voted on, talk to the President before purchasing. *Patrick says send to Jim first for awareness/approval.*
 - Meeting with CRC: Jim and Patrick will meet with CRC at their office on August 23 to determine how much money they are holding for us. *Roughly \$28,000 total, we think, and they will compare notes at Wednesday meeting. Ryan thinks CRC's Mallory will be able to help navigate this financial-speak. We're not the only ones having trouble with that a*
 - Our Estimates: Based on the applicable spreadsheets Jim and Patrick could find...
 - Jim think's we carried over from 2019 **\$9,651.68**
 - (we had been hemorrhaging money for years.)
 - As best Jim can tell, our net income in 2020 was **\$2,660.23**
 - (CRC record keeping is weird in 2020 due to Cromack Project, but it shows this net income for the year)
 - We closed out 2021 with net income of **\$6,431.24**
 - We closed out 2022 with net income of **\$4,862.10**
 - Cromack Project Share **\$5,000.00**
 - So, if Jim's reading of the spreadsheets is correct, DRWA should be **starting Calendar year 2023** with **\$28,605.25** Total Equity.

- Unlike past budget spreadsheets prepared by CRC for us, the new DRAFT Statement **lacks our Budget for calendar year 2023** with planned and actual expenses by Program Area. **We will have to see what either CRC or DRWA can do to accommodate our needs to show planned program expenditures.**
 - Here is what we submitted to CRC as our proposed 2023 budget with planned Program Area funding allocations for...
 - Trail Maintenance - \$0
 - Educational Programs - \$600
 - River Cleanup - \$900
 - Monitoring - \$2000
 - Wild & Scenic Rivers - \$0
 - Outreach Activities - (such as Green River Festival) - \$500
 - General Operations - (such as Contributions, CRC Admin. fee, Printing, Mailing, Stamps, Memberships, Website & Email & Google Docs, etc.) - \$1,500
 - **Last Updated:** July 13, 2023
 - Contributions: Jan 1, thru Jun 30, 2023 **\$1,121.62**
- **Secretary:** (Terry)
- **Membership & Community Outreach:**
 - DRWA Instagram Account – (Sheila & Ryan)
 - Facebook Account – (Ryan)
 - Jim has been posting some of our events to Facebook and will be trying to link that to our Instagram account based on advice from Sheila and Ryan.
 - Newsletters & Appeals - (Jim)
 - A DRAFT ENewsletter that highlights four September events was twice sent to the board for quick reviews. CRC will send it out to our email member list Sept 1.
- **Education:** (Terry Atkinson)
 - Education Outreach:
 - Mini-Grants –
 - **[Science]:** (Terry Atkinson) *From Ken Sprankle, Leader CT River Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office: The main stem river and tributaries have had record July flows that created many issues throughout the basin but most notably in Vermont. In the attached report I used some USGS data for context to explore just how July 2023 compares with previous years and it is indeed a record with these data (With a few exceptions, and *data in paren is 2022). The report also contains a surprise 20 Shortnose Sturgeon being passed at Holyoke Fish Lift from 8/2 to 8/5.*

Am. Shad 279,041 (191,651); Alewife 8,026 (6,681); BB Herring 2,228 (370); Atl. Salmon 0 (4); Am. Eel 10,187 (7,845); Lamprey 22,489 (23,042); Stripers 116 (314); Gizz. Shad 60 (63); S.N. Sturgeon 21 (20)

Also: Terry attended an interesting *Climate in Your Pocket* webinar (Earth to Sky/NASA, NPS discussions) regarding climate change & stewardship as it is viewed by indigenous tribes. We viewed the movie ***Inhabitants***, very informative film with the perspective that we should look to indigenous peoples' practices in adapting to climate change, prior to a talk given by Hopi scientist and educator, Michael Kotutwa Johnson entitled "A Path Forward." Several tribes were represented in the film, including the Hopi, on subjects such as dry land farming techniques, Menominee sustainable/land first lumber harvest practices, biodiversity v. monoculture, and the balance between forest & the river's hydrology as its lifeblood. Hawaii was represented & the importance of biodiverse crop growing to of avoiding the spread of plant disease/pests and wildfires. California's Yurok tribe emphasized the importance of controlled burning as their cultural practice of working with fire instead fighting fire and how it reduces very large wildfires. Terry will send the link around to the board!

New and Old Business:

Next meeting: September 18, 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.