

**DEERFIELD RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** Monday, October 16, 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, **October 16, 2023** · 6:00 – 7:30 pm

x	Bruce Lessels		Chris Bathurst
x	Charlie Olchowski	x	Ryan O'Donnell
	David Boles	x	Sheila Kelliher Missed first part
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 – **September 18, 2023** **Vote to Consider Approval** Minutes approved. (Jim Perry)

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

**Board Member Reports -**

- **President:** (Jim Perry – President)
  - Letter of Support: Sent to Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture to support the Massachusetts Woodlands Institute in the Engaging Land Stewards in Fisheries Habitat Restoration in the lower Deerfield Watershed Headwaters project. (Jim) *Jim did.*
  - CRC's CT River - Western Watershed Assoc Semi-annual Meeting - 10/27 at 12pm, Who would like to attend this Microsoft (MS) Teams Meeting with

me? This will be the final Western Watershed Assoc meeting for Kelsey Wentling. *Terry expressed an interest. 4-5 watersheds within the Connecticut River watershed will be part of the meeting. Some are professor run and with student projects.*

- Mail & Email Call: Do we have any? (Jim)
- CRC Liaison: Latest news. (Ryan)
  - *Ryan went to the VT ANR meeting. There's an opportunity to identify monitoring opportunities. Once there's a draft plan, maybe Marie can come talk to the board.*
  - *Rebecca Todd is the new CRC Executive Director. Ryan says that he may be able to invite her to a future meeting to introduce herself.*
  - What is the status of recent invoices?
    - **Patrick** was paid by check when we met with CRC.
    - **CopyCat's** three invoices have not been paid and there will be a \$75 penalty if not paid by 10/31/2023. Jim informed CRC and they will expedite payment. *Some of these are from the Franklin County Rivers cleanup, payment delayed partly due to lack of DRWA approval/documentation per Ryan. CRC is still trying to catch up on paying bills.*
    - **MassRivers Alliance** dues were paid a few weeks ago.
- Agenda Length Discussion: There was a general sense from the Board that our agendas have become much too long, and that a fair number of agenda items are just placeholders for things that may not be current. These could be replaced by a more catch-all agenda item, such as Miscellaneous Updates from Board Members. (Chris C, All) *Terry suggested putting these items at the end of the agenda. Bruce suggested something similar. Ryan wonders if we need to have a check in on things that may not change every month (eg FR Cleanup, Green River Fest, or things that may not have changed since last meeting). Chris C suggests a category of updates that may not have anything new. Patrick suggests keeping format as is this month and having board members self-identify their topics that are not currently active and could be dropped from future agendas. He also suggests that Board Members commit to reading the agenda ahead of time so speakers can summarize their topic and the meetings can go faster. Ryan suggests some organizations have a blank agenda, and if people don't submit anything, it doesn't go on the agenda. Eg. Woodlands Partnership, Green River Alliance may not have anything new each month. Patrick suggests eliminating email, google for now; he will commit to communicate finance updates. Jim will send a note out for everyone to self-identify what could be eliminated. Jim says no one has sent him agenda items in ages. Chris appreciates what Jim does!*
- DRWA Visioning Session for Board members: Discussion. Where to hold it? CRC HQ conference room? Chris C's house? (Chris C, All) *Chris cites our discussion at end of meeting; we have money in the budget for first time in years.*

*Discussion of future projects and to what we allocate our resources. Patrick is happy to bring technology to those who want to attend virtually. Ryan thinks the technology (Owl?) is fixed. Ryan would be willing to administer the meeting. Chris was thinking next month, November date contemplated; Chris will poll the board.*

- **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) *Jack finds our meetings very engaging, but suggests slimming the agenda too. Jack is thankful for the participation/help from DRWA.*
  - Trout Unlimited returned our \$100 sponsorship contribution and CRC has credited it to our account.
  - Fly-Fishing Film Tour Event at Latchis Theater in Brattleboro: *Jack thinks 150 tickets were sold; cash flow was positive. Perhaps around \$1300 in profit realized. \$500 will be sent to Chris C's Wild & Scenic group, payable per Jim to Connecticut River Conservancy (memo line DRWA: Wild & Scenic). Jack says the movie was a bit long per some, and some of the language a bit salty for families. The Latchis gave them a large room. He will ask David Deen about possibly sending out an event report to DRWA and other partners. There were also a lot of ads in the fly-fishing film (too many), ~\$400 in raffle tickets were sold and perhaps more could've been sold with more staffing. Patrick thinks we can promote more from the Massachusetts side to get people to come. He also suggests shorts, like the 20-minute presentation/film at the Back Country Ski Association meeting he attended recently. He thinks the live speaker combination works well. Chris really enjoyed the fly-fishing film stories, their high quality, perhaps long but engaging. Jack cites Trout in the Classroom program going on in VT with mostly elementary students. The VT Connecticut River TU Chapter hasn't been as successful this year with grant funding.*
  - Charlie tells Jack that his piece on the wakeboat issue was forceful, but very well written. Jack states August 10th was closing date for comment submission. DEC seemed to be not willing to go along with 1,000 feet they requested, but they had the largest number of comments (759) ever; 82% wanted stronger than 500', 41% wanted 1000', and 41% wanted wake boats banned altogether. One of the Secretary of Commerce people has a wakeboat and has come out against the proposal. Jack hopes the cards are not stacked against them.

- Did it break even or make a profit? Any surplus funds to DRWA's Wild & Scenic Program? Yes. \$100 sponsorship plus \$500 toward DRWA's W&S River Program
- Franklin County Rivers Source to Sea Cleanup (formerly, The Green River Cleanup) and the Greenfield City Cleanup. – Status Update. (David Boles, Charlie Olchowski )
  - How did it go? *Charlie thinks the rainy weather affected the greater amount of litter, and rain and flooding impacted debris from homeless encampments. He feels we could more effectively advocate in schools for more responsibility for picking up litter. He says most of it was not affecting water quality. He feels the team that organizes is very effective. David will report more next time after wrap up meeting.*
  - Jim set up a table and solicited sign-ups for our newsletters and took photos for our publicity. *Jim says not much in newsletter sign ups. People signed in and then went to the field to collect trash.*
  - Any word back on the Zoar Outdoor, TU, and Mohawk Trail State Forest Deerfield mid-river cleanups? Any photos we can have? (Sheila, Bruce) *Bruce says Zoar did a cleanup, gave away a kayak, hasn't heard back on whether there are photos. Said it was hard to find enough trash to make it as worthwhile, but perhaps an idea for another event that might support the effort. Sheila says they cleaned up Stillwater, Shunpike and confluence of the Cold River; confluence has old encampments, Ryan thinks post wrap-up meeting should include Ryan, Stacy, Charlie, others and add clarification of CRC and others' roles (DRWA) as to who is funding various aspects. Also says there was a lot of red tape around the food: Patrick, David, CRC and others need to be advised of what is being funded. Clarification is needed. Patrick says there needs to be a list of what the expected expenses will be in advance. Jim says we received two donations totalling \$800 from letters that were sent out. Need to send them out earlier?*
    - **\$500** - Coca-Cola; **\$300** - Greenfield Savings Bank;
- Green River Festival - The concert promotion is under new ownership. How will this affect our chances at a booth? (Jim)
- Monitoring – Status Update. (Ryan O'Donnell)
  - The season is done; Ryan is waiting for the data results to come in before making the final report.
- Wild & Scenic Rivers – Status. Next steps. (Chris Curtis with Charlie Olchowski and Patrick McCoy) *Chris didn't anticipate we'd have a*

*completely dysfunctional Congress when he started this; he is trying to figure out the end run around this problem. Jim suggests talking to Julia Blatt at Mass Rivers Alliance about the implications of going around congress.*

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- Trail Maintenance – Status. (Chris Curtis, Chris Bathurst, Jim Perry)
  - *Chris C has been working with Robert Rohauer at CSX. Responsibility for this section of RR line has been transferred to B&E Railroad. Robert transferred the proposal to them, but he doesn't yet know who that contact person is. Jim hopes we can talk them out of the stone deflection shed under the trestle, and whether we can find a solution for crossing the trail's steep fill slope and dropoff, since we cannot excavate the trail directly into the slope fill. Chris will pursue it in due time.*
- Deerfield River - Recreation Management Planning - Status: (Bruce Lessels)
  - Nothing to report. Hasn't heard anything from Jessica; he tends to hear more from people about issues when there is a season with much less rain and the river is more crowded.
- Relicensing - Status. (Bruce Lessels)
  - Gardner Falls Hydroelectric Project - (Jim & Bruce)
    - Wilcox Hollow road has been repaired, but poorly, so it will wash out again.
    - CRC, DRWA, Shelburne, and Buckland are working on comments to Patriot Hydro's submission of a Recreation Plan to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).
    - Prior to this meeting, the draft comments have been sent to the DRWA Board for review. All of the edits will then be sent to CRC for consolidation and then signatures by the four groups, and then on to FERC and the other partners who have not participated in the review process.
    - *Patriot Hydro sent their comments to FERC. Jim says we need to get on FERC notification list for the various dams since Kelsey is leaving.*
    - *Ryan says they are close to getting a new river steward.*
- **Woodlands Partnership of Northwest MA** – Status Update. (Sheila Kelliher)
  - *Nothing new until after the board meeting.*
- **Deerfield River Watershed Trout Unlimited** – Updates on what Trout Unlimited has been up to on the Deerfield River. (Sheila Kelliher)
  - No Report

- **Mass Rivers Alliance** - Current issues. (Chris Bathurst)
  - No Report
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- **Financial Report:** Review Financial Report. (Patrick)
  - 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 making a purchase.
  - CRC provided a [current financial report for January 1 - September 30, 2023](#), as promised.
    - Total operating revenue (contributions) to date: \$2,036.62
      - Includes \$800 toward Franklin County Rivers Cleanup (Thanks, David!)
    - Total expenditures to date: \$605.45
    - Net revenue over expenditures to date: \$1,431.17
    - Total DRWA account balance held by CRC: \$48,169.17
  - For discussion: CRC holds all of our funding. Should the board request a transfer of some of our account balance into a higher yield savings account? If yes, what sort of account? What financial institution? How much of our account balance do we want to have transferred? *Maybe we can discuss in person; Patrick thinks we can make the money work for us. Jim thinks we should ask CRC to put a portion of it into a high yield CD and credit the interest back to DRWA. Per Jim, we have run a deficit in the past, and we should do some additional fund-raising. We can discuss it more in the visioning session. Patrick could reach out to CRC folks for their suggestions. Charlie mentions a 6 month CD that earned \$800-900 for another organization he's involved in. Ryan suggests that CRC will have some ideas based on what they do.*
- **Secretary:** (Terry)
  - *No issues.*
- **Membership & Community Outreach:**
  - Online Media: (Sheila, Jim, Patrick, Ryan)
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  - Newsletters & Appeals - (Jim)
    - Time to begin work on a Fall Newsletter (Paper & Email)
    - The Fall Appeal Letter will be in mailboxes around October 23. Many of us received them today. The appeal will include our new brochure and donation return envelope.
    - *Jim is planning to start an early winter newsletter.*
- **Education:** (Terry Atkinson)
  - Education Outreach:
  - Mini-Grants – *Terry asks for others to send recommendations for schools to contact*

- **[Science]:** (Terry Atkinson?)
- *Aliki at CRC attends, says Ryan, and Terry could connect with her about fish migration.*

**New and Old Business:** *Charlie thinks we need more brochures; Jim says they were distributed at the events we attended starting with the Franklin County Fair. Charlie suggests placing at county libraries, visitor's center RMV, etc. New brochures arrived to everyone (about 300) in today's funding appeal*

**Next meeting:** **November 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.