

**DEERFIELD RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: Monday, November 20, 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, **November 20, 2023** · 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Google Meet joining info

	Bruce Lessels	x	Chris Bathurst Will Join Late
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 and Rebecca Todd

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

LIST OF TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED

--Call to order

--Review past minutes – **October 16, 2023** **Vote to Consider Approval** Passed by vote. (Jim Perry)

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

Leadership Report -

- **President's Report:** (Jim Perry – President)
 - When we get to the **individual project reports**, we just need to state “**nothing to report,**” if there is nothing new to report.
 - REMINDER: DRWA **Visioning Session** for Board members:
 - In person at CRC in Greenfield, **6:00 December 7th**, or Google Meet for folks who cannot or do not want to attend in person. (Chris C, All)

- Sent a monitoring grant commitment letter to the board for approval and the final/approved version to Ryan.
- Talked with State Senator Paul Mark's representative about three Deerfield River Issues: 1. Shunpike, 2. Sunburn Beach, and 3. Wilcox Hollow and how the State Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) could be doing more at these three locations.
- **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 proposes a presentation of the \$500 movie check from TU to DRWA at the strategy-planning meeting on December 7. Someone can take a photo as I hand DRWA the check. We can use that as a publicity item. Suggestions on how?
 - Franklin County Rivers Source to Sea Cleanup (formerly, The Green River Cleanup) and the Greenfield City Cleanup. – Status Update. (David Boles, Charlie Olchowski)
 - Any followup?
 - Green River Festival - (Jim)
 - Need to follow up on booth space with the new owner. Patrick will run point.
 - Monitoring – Status Update. (Ryan O'Donnell)
 - Grant submitted. Chris C...the stretch of river through the Town of Deerfield seems to be impaired.
 - Wild & Scenic Rivers – Status. Next steps. (Chris Curtis with Charlie Olchowski and Patrick McCoy)
 - News and Updates:
 - National Park Service meeting held on alternative approaches to W&S
 - Congressional Letter requesting NPS funds for Reconnaissance Study sent
 - National Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition "Dear Colleague" letter prepared including Deerfield River in list of requested legislation, seeking House champion
 - Discussions held on state-initiated W&S designation *Chris found there really is no state organization to work on W&S designation as there was with the Westfield River. Chris thinks we can do a provable study for \$60,000 with fundraising rather than the estimated \$200,000. He thinks he'd still have to write a grant. Charlie asks about the bill trying to get into this session of Congress; Chris says all 7*

have signed on in each congressional session. Jack W wants to know if feds throw out this initiative; what is plan B? As Chris points out, Congress is not passing anything right now, so do need to find a plan B.

- *Plan A - congressional funding. Plan B - DRWA and grant funding.*
- Action Items:
 - Send thank you letters to members of Congress
 - Work on a Dear Colleague letter.
 - Consider joining the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition **VOTED** to approve up to \$200 membership fee per year.
 - Consider working with the new MA Office of Outdoor Recreation
 - Authorize discussions with National Park Service on scope issues
 - Encourage the packaging of all national river issues into the Public Lands Bill. Ours is one of the four.
- Trail Maintenance – Status. (Chris Curtis, Chris Bathurst, Jim Perry)
 - A surveyor is working this week to survey potential trail easements for the Shelburne River Trail (a part of the Mohican-Mohawk Trail)
 - Jim and his daughter brushed-out and flagged the trail for the surveyor. *Chris mentions Bardwell's Ferry section; this section has been purchased by someone else (Jim notes: Under a CSX lease to Berkshire & Eastern RR.) Robert Rohauer of CSX has sent Chris a roster of people to contact at the new company B&E (Berkshire & Eastern Railroad). Sheila notices a lot of work going on regarding internet.*
- Deerfield River - Recreation Management Planning - Status: (Bruce Lessels)
 - Anything to report?
- Relicensing - Status. (Bruce Lessels)
 - Gardner Falls Hydroelectric Project - (Jim & Bruce)
 - Jim needs to send copies of our FERC filing to the other silent participants who traditionally receive FERC cc's.
 - Jim needs to figure out how to sign up to be on the FERC notification list for the major hydro projects on the Deerfield. Andrea Donlon offered to help him sign up.
- **Woodlands Partnership of Northwest MA** – Status Update. (Sheila Kelliher)

- Jim straightened out all of the trees that were planted at the Buckland/Shelburne Elementary School by the Partnership *Jim noticed they were not planted well due to the weather, so he went back and straightened them out.*
- Had a full board meeting on 11/15 at the Shelburne-Buckland Community Ctr. *per Sheila.*
- Guest speakers were: Director of Rural Affairs, Executive Office of Economic Development & Kristen Elechko - Western Massachusetts Director, Office of Governor Maura T. Healey *Ann Goby also present.*
- They both spoke about their desires to focus on and help western Ma communities - I think these are good contacts to have for many of our initiatives.
- We voted on a bylaw change to expand the Executive Committee, which was approved and we voted in a new board member - Rhonda Anderson of the Ohketeau Cultural Center, another great contact to have.
- Also present at the meeting was Markelle Smith, of Mass Audubon, and also on the board of "Friends of Conte." She spoke about the Connecticut River Watershed Partnership Act. I know we have signed on already to be a partner for this initiative. Maybe she could come speak to us at a future meeting and we can see how it may relate to our work for Wild & Scenic.
- *Sheila mentions that sometimes bills get bundled and passed together. Chris says there is a mechanism for this currently.*
- **Deerfield River Watershed Trout Unlimited** – Updates on what Trout Unlimited has been up to on the Deerfield River. (Sheila Kelliher)
 - Anything to report? *Sheila says there is a new slate of officers to vote on.*
- **Mass Rivers Alliance** - Current issues. (Chris Bathurst & Jim)
 - Jim voted for the noncompetitive board member slate.
 - There is a membership billing issue MassRivers and CRC are working on. *This has been resolved on their end.*
- **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 DRWA account balance held by CRC: \$48,169.17 (as of Sept. 30)
 - For discussion: CRC is agreeable to transferring some of our funding into an interest bearing account. Something to discuss in December at our planning meeting. *Chris at CRC had no objection to put some of these funds in an interest bearing account.*

- *Northern Watershed Update - Jack will attend the visioning session to also present a check from TU and take a photo. Has media been contacted? Chris and others say they will contact local media.*
- *Jack says 4 months since final public comments on wakeboat issue; there were 750 comments made (a record).*
- **Membership & Community Outreach:**
 - Newsletters & Appeals - (Jim)
 - Draft articles for an Early Winter Newsletter (Paper & Email) were sent to the Board for review and then sent on to CRC for editing and putting into a newsletter layout.
 - Due to the very high cost (about \$3 each) of printing, processing, and shipping the newsletters and appeals by the CRC's contracted mail processor, I've opted to have CRC print the current paper newsletter at CopyCat and we do the folding, stuffing, and labeling of envelopes. Sending a copy via email is free. *Jim states most people tend to donate at the end of the year. Jim thinks we can put the mailing together early December, maybe at visioning meeting December 7th.*
 - Due to the high cost of paper mailings, it is probably time in early 2024, to purge our street address mailing list once again. (such as delete physical mailing addresses from past members who have not donated in three years)
- **Education:** (Terry Atkinson)
 - Education Outreach: Anything to report?
 - Mini-Grants – Anything to report? *Terry thanks everyone for their ideas and will disseminate them to the right people.*
- **[Science]:** (Terry Atkinson?)

New and Old Business:

Next meeting: December 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.