

**DEERFIELD RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: **Monday, December 18, 2023** **TIME:** **6:00** pm - 8:00 pm

LOCATION: Google Meet this month.

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|-----------------|
| x | Bruce Lessels | x | 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 – **November 20, 2023** **Vote to Consider Approval** (Approved)
(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.
 - Due to illnesses and other factors, Chris is working with the Board to reschedule the visioning session for later in January or February. (Chris C, All) *Chris says **January 29th** will be the visioning session at CRC*
 - **Ryan:** Does CRC have a MA River Steward yet? *Yes, a new steward, **Nina Gordon Kirsch**. She's from the Bay area of CA, has been learning from Ryan as a monitoring assistant. Working on catching up on FERC info. Kelsey offered to help transition. Jim says he needs to catch up with Central Rivers Power; is not sure FERC responded to the letter sent in all our names. Ryan says Kathy (VT*

River Steward) can help too. Charlie states it is very involved to get on the list of FERC notifications, but once you're on, it is very reliable.

- 2024 Officer Elections

- **Vote in January - Who would like what positions?** You can keep the positions you have, volunteer for those listed below, or ask to be relieved from your current position. Jim would really like to have someone else take the number one position, but responsiveness and attention to correspondence and details is a big part of his position. He is willing to stay in a support position. Patrick asks if bylaws require us to have our slate officers in place by a certain date. Jim thinks the slate of officers are traditionally voted on in January at our annual meeting, which we have not held recently. Chris C, Jim, Charlie, & Patrick are ok with keeping the Board voting process as it is.
- Jim asks if Ryan can find out if the \$75 late fee was paid to CopyCat. If the info can be found, Jim would like to be able to tell them.

| Position | 2023 | 2024 |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| President | Jim Perry | |
| 1st Vice President | Chris Curtis | |
| 2nd Vice President | Charlie Olchowski | |
| Treasurer | Patrick McCoy | (Patrick - interested) |
| Secretary | Terry Atkinson | |

- Team Leaders

| Position | 2023 | 2024 |
|-----------------------------|---|------|
| Franklin Rivers Cleanup | David Boles, Charlie Olchowski | |
| Wild & Scenic Rivers | Chris Curtis with Charlie Olchowski and Patrick McCoy | |
| Woodlands Partnership of NW | Sheila Kelliher | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Mass | | |
| River Planning | Bruce Lessels | |
| Website & Email | Patrick McCoy | |
| Newsletters | Jim Perry | (Jim- interested) |
| Education | Terry Atkinson | |
| Membership & Community Outreach | Sheila Kelliher (Instagram) with Jim Perry (Newsletters) and Ryan O'Donnell (Facebook) <i>Need a Membership Lead.</i> | (Jim- interested) |
| Science | Terry Atkinson - General David Boles - Salt | |
| VT Northern Watershed Liaison | Jack Widness | |
| Dam Relicensing | Bruce Lessels | |
| Mass Rivers Alliance | Chris Bathurst | |
| Trails & Trail Maintenance | Chris Curtis, Chris Bathurst, Jim Perry | |

- **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 to move the presentation of the \$500 Wild & Scenic River movie proceeds check to the future visioning session. A draft news release has been written. The *Natural Resources agency wakeboat decision is still pending. Jack states the LKAR process oversees whether the procedures are correct. Jack says there should be a ruling before the end of the calendar year. The agency can decide to weigh the issue however they want, in spite of public input. Charlie says he thinks Jack has done a great job of getting the word out. DRWA's support is the same viewpoint of his neighbors, not in favor of the 500' requirement.*

- 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? *Nothing to report*
- Green River Festival - (Patrick)
 - Anything to report? We are on the festival list. *They will reach out to us.*
- Monitoring – Status Update. (Ryan O'Donnell)
 - Anything to report? *Hoping data results will be in from Vermont in February.*
 - *Lots of flooding in Greenfield.*
 - *Huge sewage release in Greenfield. We get regular updates from the emergency manager in Deerfield. In July, 8' river crest, 12' from today! 330,000 gallons released from sewage treatment plant per David!*
- Wild & Scenic Rivers – Status. Next steps. (Chris Curtis with Charlie Olchowski and Patrick McCoy)
 - Meeting with American Rivers, Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition and Congressman McGovern Staff on "Dear Colleague Letter" and Congressional Strategy for Wild and Scenic Bill (see attached)
 - Joined Wild and Scenic Rivers Coalition, with bi-monthly national meetings *Chris says quite a bit going on. Mentions visioning session will be at 6 p.m. on Jan. 29th. Chris had a zoom meeting from Washington DC folks re Wild & Scenic (American Rivers and others, as well as Congressman McGovern). Dear Colleague letter regarding?? OR, NM, VT bills we can roll this into. Much discussion on how difficult it is to get anything moving with this congress. Talked about trying to get a Republican co-sponsor to help. Group helping them is the National Wild & Scenic Coalition. Chris has joined this group for the \$200 fee we approved. He also got a request from another national group to support FY25 which includes dam removal, enhancing water quality and other issues. Sheila sent Chris an email regarding grant funding from Woodlands Partnership to help support the Wild & Scenic designation. Sheila says two women who are on the board talked to Bob Connor on EOC who thinks we may qualify for **\$75,000 in regional grant funding**. There is no matching fund requirement in applying. Chris thinks it may help us move forward without congressional funding. We'll check in after the holidays.*
- Trail Maintenance – Status. (Chris Curtis, Chris Bathurst, Jim Perry)

- **Financial Report:** Review Financial Report. (Patrick) *Nothing new to report. Hoping the report will come as soon as next week.*
 - 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)
- **Secretary:** (Terry)
- **Membership & Community Outreach:**
 - Newsletters & Appeals - (Jim)
 - The Early Winter Newsletter (Paper) was mailed out on December 13th. We saved a lot of money with CopyCat printing the newsletter and by Margaret Perry stuffing the envelopes and applying stamps. The near-duplicate E-News will be sent out on the morning of December 23rd.
 - I designed and ordered 60 “Thank You” cards for those who donated to the DRWA. As usual, I am donating the cards.
- **Education:** (Terry Atkinson)
 - Education Outreach: Anything to report?
 - Mini-Grants – Anything to report?
- **[Science]:** (Terry Atkinson?)

New and Old Business:

Next meeting: January 15, 2024 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.