

**DEERFIELD RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** Monday, February 19, 2024 **TIME:** 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**LOCATION:** Google Meet this month.

	Bruce Lessels	x	Chris Bathurst
x	Charlie Olchowski	x	Ryan O'Donnell
x	David Boles		Sheila Kelliher
x	Jim Perry	x	Terry Atkinson
	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 (**by Chris Bathurst, acting tonight for Jim**)

--Review past minutes – **January 15, 2024** Vote to Consider Approval (Jim Perry)  
**Minutes approved.**

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

**Leadership Reports -**

- **President's Report:** (Jim Perry – President) *Chris B reporting*
  - **Visioning Session** Pot-Luck Our Visioning Session was held **Monday, January 29th at 6pm at the CRC offices in Greenfield.** (Chris C) *Everyone came with ideas, Primary mission is Wild & Scenic, rest as follows below. It will work as an anchor for other projects also. Jack brought the check from the T.U. Event/Film. Also discussion with Jim about others taking more of a role as he designates more of the presidential role to others. It was great to be there in person. Patrick appreciates everything that was contributed. We can talk about next steps at a future in-person meeting. Also mentioned Green River pollution. David likes the assessment of Green River being put before the board. How will it be funded? Chris mentions the possibility of having another in person meeting as early as April. David & Terry offered up their abodes for that purpose.*

- DRWA Board members were asked to come with two project ideas that represented priorities or projects that they wanted to work on. Top 3 included:
      1. DRWA leads a successful effort to secure National Wild and Scenic River Designation for the Deerfield River (Chris C)- 7 votes
      2. DRWA highlights pollution of the Green River and seeks funding (David) – 4 votes
      3. Define online and media presence for DRWA (get name out there, publish water quality results, develop relationship with Recorder) (Sheila) – 3 votes
  - **Conflict of Interest Policy and Annual Disclosure Form** (Jim) *Chris B & Jim think we should fill out and sign at the same time as election of officers, each January, or as each new board member comes onto the board.*
    - What and Why is it?
    - Any thoughts on the draft Policy and Form sent out for review. *Charlie brings up whether there should be confidentiality in cases of projects in process. For further discussion.*
    - When is the best time to fill out the form and how to submit it for central record keeping on GoogleDocs? *Patrick offers to make a google sheet list of who has filled out the form and update as needed.*
    - **Ready to Vote?** *Motion carried in agreement of adopting the disclosure forms as written.*
- **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) *State of VT has a new home lake rule; this is a first in the nation.*
    - *Vermont's Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR) voted to approve ANR's rule to manage wake boats and wake sports on Vermont's inland lakes and ponds. They did not go along with 1,000 feet from shore, but wake boats are not considered in the same category as kayaks or canoes.*
    - ***Under the new regulations, wake boats in wake sport mode are prohibited on 43 of Vermont's 73 lakes. On the remaining 30, operation in the wake sport mode is permitted within a wake zone, which is at least 50 contiguous acres that are 500 feet from shore on all sides and 20 feet deep. The Home Lake provision in the regulations stipulates that a wake boat owner must declare a "home" lake each year and requires approved decontamination of ballast tanks at a state approved facility each time the boat is moved from one body of water to another. The ANR assured LCAR that the rule will be in place for the 2024 boating season.***

- *Also Jack says Northeast T.U. chapter met with 2 other chapters (southwestern VT & Deerfield River MA) and discussed use of wood in improving fisheries, flooding, climate change, and other important issues.*
  - Franklin County Rivers Source to Sea Cleanup (formerly, The Green River Cleanup) and the Greenfield City Cleanup. – Status Update. (David B, Charlie O. ) *Saturday in mid-September date? Blue Bag Cleanup Day in Greenfield will be likely timed with Earth Day. David mentions working in conjunction with Wilmington VT area. Also there has been mention of having cleanups at other times of year. Shifting to springtime or having 2 cleanups. How do we get the city to assess the river and the streams that run into it and where it runs through Greenfield. Jim P mentions meeting with FRCOG and not knowing where the pollution is coming from. He says we need to know what the pollutants are as they enter, flow through, and exit Greenfield. Would we need access in some areas? Ryan points out that the river is assessed every year, but only as to whether the river is impaired. The Green River is not listed as impaired above Greenfield, but is impaired in Greenfield. Jim mentions other chemicals we don't test for. (Trichloromethane? Please correct, Jim.) Jack mentions it doesn't have to be a factory that does the polluting; could be farms, etc. Ryan says conservation districts (local & state) or FRCOG are typically the organizations to make a watershed-based plan to study such chemicals. Jack wonders if Wild & Scenic might incorporate this; it makes sense. Jim asks what are the data holes, and what should be the parameters, what solvents, etc. Ryan says DEP is very secretive about this.*
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- Green River Festival - (Patrick M) *He is just now reaching out again to DPS Shows to circle back with them about our DRWA presence there.*
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- Deerfield and lower Connecticut **Tactical Basin Plan** (Ryan O, Jim P)
  - A Zoom meeting, **kickoff meeting** was held on the update of the Vermont section of the **Deerfield and lower Connecticut Tactical Basin Plan** on January 24th. Windham Regional Commission hosted the meeting.
    - Marie Caduto is leading the plan.
    - The plan is updated every 5 years. The Plan covers the Deerfield River basin in Vermont only and some tributaries to the Connecticut River in Vermont.
    - They are looking for thoughts on what needs to be put into the Plan to improve water quality and habitat. Where should

they do restoration projects? How to prioritize what needs to be done? *Jack says they are looking for input on what projects to take on; perhaps the chemical issue in rivers.*

- Monitoring – Status Update. (Ryan O'Donnell)
  - No Change. Waiting on final data from VT which was expected in January. No ETA on 2023 report available. Also waiting on a funding announcement for this upcoming season.
- Wild & Scenic Rivers – Status. Next steps. (Chris C with Charlie O., Patrick M, Chris B)
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- Trail Maintenance – Status. (Chris Curtis, Chris Bathurst, Jim Perry)
  - Jim gave a trails construction and maintenance presentation powerpoint at the Buckland Trails Summit on February 3rd. *Terry & Charlie attended as well.*
- Deerfield River - Recreation Management Planning - Status: (Bruce Lessels, Jim)
  - FRCOG is willing to do the permitting and coordinate the installation of porta-potties at Shunpike for free, if someone else can come up with the dollars. (Jim)
  - A1 rental cost, \$1,566.63 for three months, 2 regular porta-potties and 1 handicapped. *Patrick wonders whether we should dedicate some of our funds? Does this include insurance? Jim says pumping happens once a week, not enough for Zoar. Chris B tables for addition to agenda next week.*
  - No response from the Charlemont Town Manager to an email sent January 31, asking if they would be willing to kick in for the porta-potty rental. Charlemont received \$500,000 from the State for Recreation mitigation. No word on how it will be spent.
  - Meanwhile, in a letter to Jon Gould from MassDOT - District Director for State Senator Paul Mark, MaState Senate, MassDOT will not consider turning management of Shunpike over to MassDCR unless DCR approaches them first.
- Relicensing - Status. (Bruce Lessels)
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- **Woodlands Partnership of Northwest MA** – Status Update. (Sheila K)
  - The first meeting of the Indigenous Relationship building working group was this past Friday. We are in the brainstorming stage and are looking for educational opportunities.
  - I have a Forest Conservation sub-committee meeting tomorrow, the first time we've met in almost 2 years, I think. On the agenda is a discussion

of Deerfield River Watershed Wild & Scenic Designation pursuit and possible intersection with the Woodlands Partnership's pursuit of a Natural Heritage Area Designation. I have already been in touch with Chris Curtis about this. Only update I have about when the grant applications will start is "Spring." *Jim says for the first time we'd be eligible for a \$75,000 grant as a regional entity.*

- **Deerfield River Watershed Trout Unlimited** – Updates on what Trout Unlimited has been up to on the Deerfield River. (Sheila K)
  - Flies, Pies & Lies event in March at the South Deerfield Polish Club
  - We had our annual 3 chapter meeting with 2 chapters from VT last Thursday. There was a discussion of possibly doing another film-related event, similar to the Fly Fishing film tour held at the Latchis.
- **Mass Rivers Alliance** - Current issues. (Chris B, Chris C)
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- **Financial Report:** Review Financial Report. (Patrick M)
  - **Approval of Expenses:** Remember to run all expense invoices **through the DRWA President and Treasurer for approval**. If the **planned expense** is not already in the Approved Budget or voted on, talk to the President or Treasurer before making a purchase.
  - **FY 2023 End of Year Summary** *Patrick says there's a small discrepancy in donations with CRC. Jim says next meeting we should come up with a project. Everyone should keep a detailed account of expenses and run them through Jim or Patrick for approval ahead of time. What do we owe Ryan for monitoring last year? Ryan will calculate what DRWA owes.*
    - In Calendar Year 2023, we took in **\$8,584.12**. (CRC will not charge us an Administrative rate for 2023.)
    - Expenses: **\$2086.21**
    - Net Revenue totaled: **\$5,815.91**
    - We started the year with \$42,296.96 and ended it with **48,105.87**
    - The Administrative rate for 2024 will be **27.31%**
  - **Updated Donation Page** <https://deerfieldriver.org/donate>
    - Please test the updated donation page. We also have new guidance for donations made by check. *It's important the check be made out to "CRC," but note in the memo line that it is for "DRWA."* Also, ask large donors to email DRWA to let us know that a large donation is coming in, so we can track that it is credited to us correctly. Also, Patrick updated the online donation form, including accepting VENMO and other online money transfer formats. Chris B thinks we should make the upper level donation amounts higher; Patrick says we can.
- **Secretary:** (Terry)
- **Membership & Community Outreach:**
  - **Newsletters & Appeals** - (Jim)

- Sent out 93 “Thank You” cards to those who donated cash and services to DRWA, including those companies who donated food and such to the Franklin County Rivers Cleanup.
- **Education:** (Terry Atkinson)
  - Education Outreach: *Chris & Terry will talk about collaborating on a conference for schools to attend, keeping it simple for the first one, and likely themed around Wild & Scenic.*
  - Mini-Grants: *Finally a list of all your suggestions has been compiled and invitations will be emailed to at least 3 teachers that are actively working on environmental education and/or river projects to apply for mini-grants. Any other suggestions of teachers to add to this list are appreciated. If anyone has suggestions for additional teachers that should apply for a mini-grant, please email Terry*
- **[Science]:** (Terry Atkinson)

**New and Old Business:**

**Next meeting: March 18, 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.