

**DEERFIELD RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** **Monday, October 17, 2022** **TIME:** **6:00** pm - 8:00 pm

**LOCATION:** **Google Meet this month.**

		X	Chris Bathurst
X	Charlie Olchowski		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

– **6:05 Andy Fisk calls in** to say goodbye (see NEWS: below).

--Review past minutes – **September 19, 2022** (Jim Perry)

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

**Board Member Reports** - Potential Open Leadership Positions (**Lead?**)

- **President & Vice Presidents:** (Jim Perry – President; Chris Curtis – 1st VP; Charlie Olchowski 2nd VP)

- **NEWS:**

- **Andy Fisk** is leaving to go work for the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection. His last day is Thursday the 20th. *Position involves fisheries, wildlife, and forestry, structured like Massachusetts. It is a big department involving conservation and recreation. Andy says our relationship with CRC will stay the same.*

- *Producing a finance report for DRWA that shows \$5,000 in net revenue from the funds that supported the Dornbusch/Cromack restoration project as well as a corresponding expense line that eliminates the expenses associated with this project. The revenue is to be journaled from CRC to DRWA and the expenses journaled*

to CRC from DRWA as we have produced all final budgets and reports on this project.

- Continuing to resolve any further communication from the IRS regarding the late Form 990 filing from your fiscal year 2020. We have submitted the report and a letter to the IRS (you have seen this communication) describing the reason for the late filing. We have received a letter from the IRS indicating receipt and that they are still processing our response. If there is ultimately any penalty or further action needed that is CRC's responsibility.
- **Ron Rhodes** rhodes@ctriver.org will be acting director and the board will lead the search for a new director. Revenue will be tracked from new software system. How the accounting comes out for us is not clear for DRWA presently. It is not transferring to our statement in a timely manner or accurately. Patrick suggests clarifying in writing what between DRWA & CRC. Andy is trying to sort things out this week before leaving for his new position. Laura Herbert has been hired and will be supporting Mallory, who is still on medical leave. Our IRS late filing fee on behalf of DRWA must be tracked by us (CRC), but we are now in compliance.
- CRC will still maintain their responsibility on their end for paperwork regarding 501C3, but says we should decide whether it's worth it to us to maintain it.
- Ron Rhodes comes on board as interim CEO on Friday. All present board members congratulated Andy and thanked him for all he's accomplished in the last 10 years. Ron Rhodes is a good guy to work with according to Charlie & Jim.
  - A Hydro-Quebec subsidiary is buying Great River Hydro LLC that operates 13 hydropower generating stations in Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Apparently they power about 13,000 homes in the area.
  - Jim Perry and Kelsey Wentling (replacing Andrea Donlon) as the CRC Massachusetts River Steward will tour the Deerfield River on Nov. 1
- DRWA Board of Directors Search for Additional Directors: (All)
- Mail & Email Call: Do we have any? (Jim)
- CRC Liaison: Latest news. (Ryan)
- **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)
    - Request to be a participant commenter for Mount Snow's 10-year Master Plan. Jim searched for someone to head this up. Last meeting Jack suggested wanting to hear from Charlie & David at last T.U. meeting; he also brought up Chris Curtis' Wild & Scenic

*Rivers work - he would like him to participate as well. Planning continues with a site visit later this month relative to the Mount Snow impoundment pond. Jack will be glad to share their T.U. chapter's draft letter to Mount Snow. Charlie will get in touch with Don Pugh with regard to the similar work they did years ago on this.*

- Franklin County Rivers Source to Sea Cleanup (formerly, The Green River Cleanup) and the Greenfield City Cleanup. – Status Update. (David Boles, Charlie Olchowski )
  - *Did we receive any corporate donations as a result of our mailings? David thinks 40-50 letters went out, is not sure whether they had any response yet for sponsoring the cleanup (waiting to hear from CRC). Patrick says a donation came to DRWA from Mackin, \$100. Charlie thinks the letter they wrote can be used as a template in future. Needs to get out sooner and a more diverse group of potential sponsors developed. David says Dunkin Donuts donated 20 dozen donuts and a huge container of coffee! Also, Northeast Paving wants to sponsor a crew for next year's cleanup; they helped with tires in the past. David will send a letter to Jack Widness as a model for fundraising. David says it was a very successful year and was glad T.U. got involved in Charlemont this year. Chris B says Sheila has some photos for Jim.*
- Green River Watershed Alliance - Status Update. (Ryan O'Donnell and David Boles)
- Monitoring – Status Update and discuss invoicing process. (Ryan O'Donnell)
- Wild & Scenic Rivers – Status. Next steps. (Chris Curtis with Charlie Olchowski and Patrick McCoy)
- Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership – Status Update. (Sheila Kelliher)
- Trout Unlimited – Updates on what Trout Unlimited has been up to on the Deerfield River. (Sheila Kelliher)
  - *More water will soon flow through the Fife Brook Dam on the Deerfield River in winter for the benefit of spawning brown trout, the Deerfield River Watershed Chapter of Trout Unlimited announced.*
  - *In late 2025 or early 2026, the winter minimum flow at Fife Brook Dam will increase from 125 cubic feet per second to 225 cubic feet per second from Nov. 1 to April 15.*
  - *The increased flows are part of an agreement reached last month among Trout Unlimited, the state, and Brookfield Renewable Power.*
- Mass Rivers Alliance - Current issues. (Sheila Kelliher)
- Trail Maintenance – Status. (Art Schwenger, with Chris Curtis, Chris

Bathurst, Jim Perry)

- Completed final of 4 DRWA sponsored hikes, this one to the Wooded Loop Trails in Shelburne. Patrick posted marketing and “day of” photos for all 4 hikes on our website. *Hikes went really well, but attendance could’ve been better. Facebook, Instagram, webpage, and photos were a big help, thanks to Patrick.*
- Deerfield River Recreation Management Plan – Status. (Jim Perry)
  - Deerfield River Outdoor Recreation Study group meeting has been delayed to early November. *Porta potties are still there, but not very well maintained.*
- **Website Maintenance, Google Docs, Email System:** (Patrick McCoy) Status - *Squarespace renewal is coming up, they have payment on file. Jim asked Patrick for technical advice on updating the Google Drive.*
- **Financial Report:** Review Mallory’s Financial Report. (Patrick)
  - **Last Updated: July 18, 2022 by Jim to include Monitoring expenses**
    - **2021** Budget: \$4900.00
    - Surplus: \$4479.24
    - Donations/Income: \$8,614.22
    - Expenses: \$4,134.98 (**Now includes** Monitoring cost)
    - 07/18/2021 Jim approved 2021 water monitoring expenses of \$1,952.00
    - Net Income: \$4,479.24
- **Secretary:** (Terry)
- **Relicensing:** (Chris Curtis)
- **Membership & Community Outreach:** (**Overall Lead?**) (Sheila Kelliher (Instagram) with Jim Perry (Newsletters) and Ryan O’Donnell (Facebook))
  - DRWA Instagram Account – (Sheila)
  - Facebook Account – (Ryan)
  - Newsletters - (Jim)
    - From Nicole Reigle:
      - *CRC is currently in the final stages of interviewing Communications Director candidates, and I believe we hope to have an offer to someone by next week. The Communications Director historically has been the one to manage and oversee both the newsletter and email newsletters, while the Development staff manages all the fundraising and appeals.*
      - *CRC will not be doing a fall/winter newsletter this year due to capacity. If our new Communications Director is onboard in time for your fall/winter email, then they will handle getting*

*that out. Otherwise, myself and the Development team can work on that for you that in the interim.*

- *Brett and I will continue to manage your appeals; I will remain as the point person and manager for that process as a whole.*

- **Need to begin working on articles for paper and e-news newsletters.**

- **Education:** (Terry Atkinson)

- Education Outreach: *Still*
- Mini-Grants – Jim sent a draft, reworked RFP form to Terry. (Terry) *Terry asks whether we should continue with funds for projects that are ongoing with previous grantees or whether we should make funds available to new people. We have 2 x \$250 grants available (Patrick confirmed). Charlie reminds that Terry should contact David Smith at Turners Falls HS. Jim says as long as funds are being used to educate people about the watershed or environment, they are eligible. Charlie suggests maybe bussing kids to a conference would be a worthwhile use of funds. Chris B suggests he'd be willing to organize a conference for 6 mos.- 1 year from now where we (DRWA) are the presenters. He's had a lot of experience in this. Jim suggests Terry can compile a list of what teachers and schools might participate, and send to Chris B so he could contact them and organize presentations around what they might be interested in teaching. This would inform how he might organize an agenda for a day long conference.*

- **[Science]:** (Lead?)

**New and Old Business:**

**Next meeting: November 21, 2022, 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.