



FARMINGTON RIVER COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
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**Minutes**  
**Resource Stewardship subcommittee**  
**Tuesday, May 2, 2023, 6:30 PM**  
**Zoom**

**Attendance:** Barkhamsted (Roger Behrens, Alternate and Committee Chair), Colebrook (Alison Jassen, Representative, Secretary and R/S Subcommittee Chair), New Hartford (Alison Murdock, Representative), FRWA (Laura Hart, Alternate), CT DEEP (Susan Peterson, Alternate), National Park Service (Andrew Petitdemange, Representative), FVTU (Jim Buchok, Representative)

**Call to Order 6:33 pm**

**1) Invasive Plant Management**

Jim Buchok reported that the clean-up and invasive species removal day in April on the Frey property was very successful. They were able to remove most all the bittersweet.

Andrew will speak again with Betsy Corrigan about developing a plan to manage invasive species for this season. Jim Buchok stated that Trout Unlimited is interested in “adopting” a section along the river to maintain.

Laura will meet with a representative of NRCS to discuss invasive species.

**2) Hemlock Woolley Adelgid (HWA) control project**

Based on reports from Dr. Carole Cheah, some of the higher ridge regions near the river showed that 95+% of the HWA were killed during the low temperatures of the Polar Vortex in February. Based on this data Carole plans to release the 2nd generation beetles in the Upper Farmington region in early June. The HWA survival was greater closer to the river as the temperatures were not as low during the polar vortex.

Roger reported that FALPS is removing invasives along School Street.

**3) Water Quality Monitoring**

Summer chloride monitoring is underway. Temperature hobos cannot be swapped out due to high water flow rates. Laura stated that the Army Corp. has been releasing water lately at the rate of 1240 cfs and this high flow rate makes it too unsafe to place the hobos. FRWA recently received a grant from MA DEP to do some water monitoring in headwaters.

E. coli testing will begin soon. FRWA has 3 new interns plus 1 from last year starting soon.

#### **4) Land Protection and Grants**

No new grants proposals have been received.

**Up date: West River Rd. Bank Stabilization** – Water levels have been too high for the endangered mussel study. Susan P. reported that a one-year extension has been granted. More on this topic below.

#### **5) Culverts**

Jim Buchok stated that the culvert assessments had not started but he planned to start soon. Laura also reported that culvert assessments would start soon.

Laura is going to be meeting with Tracy Brown from Trout Unlimited, because TU is working on a priority map of culverts in the Farmington River watershed.

#### **6) Others: Continuing/new**

##### **RFP Scientific Study Archive**

No news from UCONN on the Archive and RFP.

##### **Tree Planting near Mallory Brook in Barkhamsted:**

Jim reported that the Mallory Brook (plaza) property owner doesn't want any trees. Jim inquired about other locations of which Laura may be aware. She said there are some locations where some tree replacements are needed. However, next year (2024) there will be even more options where trees are needed.

##### **West River Road Bank Stabilization Project:**

Susan reported that the West River Road Bank Stabilization Project has received a one-year extension. Andrew reported more delays as high river levels have kept Ethan Nadeau (mussel expert) out of river. Because the mussels have been identified as a species of concern, work on the bank stabilization project has stopped until the effect on the mussels can be determined. Discussion followed about finding a way to decrease the river flow rate temporarily to allow the study to be completed but since Army Corp controls the water release from Colebrook River it may be necessary to wait until water levels are lower in the river.

**NEPARC Request** - Laura said she received a new request from NE Partners for Amphibians and Reptile Conservation (NEPARC) for sponsorship of their reptile and amphibian conference on July 23 at Wesleyan. There are different support levels for sponsorships. Sponsorship would include FRCC W&S logo, etc., depending on level of sponsorship. (NEPARC request also went to Eightmile W&S and Lower Farmington/Salmon W&S.) Laura suggested a \$250 level for sponsorship. Money is available in the budget for items such as this. There was significant discussion with several people mentioning collaboration with either other Wild and Scenic Rivers in CT or with the Lower Farmington.

Alison J made a motion to **approve donation of \$250 for NEPARC conference**; Alison M seconded; Approved unanimously.

**8. Adjourn: 7:33 pm**