

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes
Thursday, April 17th, 2025 6:30 PM – UMATR Office

Attendees: John Little, Wendy Scott, Cynthia Scott, Susan Staples, Lindsey Wight, Sarah Lunn, Ruby Bratcher, Janet Lee, Brian Dickinson

Meeting called to order: 6:32 PM

Review of March meeting minutes. CS motioned to accept the minutes. SS seconded. Motion passed.

Any business from the March minutes (not on agenda): ECO AmeriCorps - no word yet on 25/26 host sites.

Event overview: Online speaker series 2025: Good feedback from outsiders - had a few from Scott's workplace attend and enjoy. Nice to see names we don't recognize. We held 3 this year vs 4 in previous years; thoughts on that schedule? Seems fine. Ruby did a great job of choosing the speakers with Sarah's help. We have a running list of topic ideas; please let us know if you have any to add.

Administrative business: Q2 financial review: as expected for staff and grant costs; high on travel, low on projects so far (but summer is main period for these).

End of CA FY20-FY24 review: Jay Land project survey is happening. Six kayaks have been chosen to purchase. A drone has been purchased and staff have tried it out. The images look good. Eliot Cluba is leading student activities in Troy. Working with partners: possibility to put some of our old canoes at Big Falls and have a system for signing them out. We could have a training class in the eddy at the bottom of Big Falls.

Tshirt designs: WS motioned to purchase; JAL seconded, motion passed.

Lindsey Review - summary of feedback; thank you to those who participated! Lindsey appreciated those who completed the review of her performance evaluation. Lindsey asked if we thought there should be an evaluation more than once a year. The response was that we don't need that.

Send out the meeting notice and agenda earlier - by Thursday at the latest

Grants/Projects: NFCT access point point across from the office - removable steps likely; will be worked on July 10/11.

Paddle-Pedal is July 12 - please participate or volunteer!

Other access points/plans. See above for Big Falls. Another possible spot is N. Troy/dam...

Jay land update. Town working to acquire 194 acre parcel; MRBA to acquire adjacent 10 acre parcel. MRBA voted to buy the 10 acre parcel where the tree nursery will be, even if the town does not pursue the full property. The Jay Selectboard recently withdrew their purchase and sales agreement, so as not to lose their deposit; hopefully their lawyer is working to amend or acquire a new one.

Management Plan review / update

Have it as a line item on each agenda; chip away at assessing/updating it. Staff have reviewed the plan and will lead a somewhat guided review of it and see what are some things that we need to be doing (or have already done!).

- Natural Resources
- Historic and Cultural

- Scenic and Recreational
- Water Quality

Homework for next meeting: look at the Management plan for your town (pp 41 and 42) and be ready to give feedback about it. First ORV Outstanding Remarkable Values - **Scenic and Recreation**

Staff will send an email to the board describing what the assignment is.

2025 Upcoming UMATR Events – April/May: Salamander Night Patrols? Sadly, unlikely due to weather; **May 18:** Annual Open House; **June 21:** The Celebration film premiere; **June 24:** Tubing on the Trout; **June 28:** Paddle Lessons; **July 10:** Guided Nature Paddle with BOTH County Foresters; **July 12:** Paddle-Pedal; **July 26:** BBQ at Brault's ; **Aug 3:** Paddle & Picnic; **Sept 6:** Swimming Hole Clean-Up; **Oct 18:** WSFF - many of the year's events are up on our website; be sure to secure your spot!

July 26th BBQ: 12-3pm. Can park truck @ field with a UMATR banner to catch attention. Kid activities: bubbles, at least. Request a local band to play? Ask local friends. RSVP for headcount: probably 50 burgers / dogs. UMATR will get buns, chips, veggies, condiments. If rain, could use garage! Assign jobs at next meeting- cooking, parking.

Film Fests for The Celebration (our film) - it will be shown as part of the [Made Here Film Fest](#) in Burlington on April 25/26.

Other/Public Comment: WSFF: please hang flyers (all) and watch films (subcommittee).

Upcoming meetings:

May 15: in person - WCC

June 19: in person - UMATR Office

Wrap up and adjourn: BD motioned to adjourn, SS seconded, motion passed. Meeting adjourned 7:54pm