

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes
Thursday, November 14th, 2024 6:30 PM – UMATR Office

Attendees: John Little, Jacques Couture, Bryan Dickinson, Dan Seeley, Wendy Scott, Cynthia Scott, Jim McCartney, Lindsey Wight, Sarah Lunn, and Ruby Bratcher in person at the UMATR Office. Janet Lee via zoom.

Review of October meeting minutes JAL motioned to approve; BD seconded; Minutes approved.

Updates on business from these minutes/notes: LW and JC will find time to meet with Jenn Blay to discuss the river in Lowell.

Event overview: PWSR Gathering. The event was a success and there was good organization by LW, SL, and RB. JM reported that the staff from The National Park Service all said that it was wonderful and that it was the best Partnership Wild and Scenic Gathering thus far. LW reported that trivia was great and we should continue hosting it at other events. The local support (and boats!) from Karrie Thomas from NFCT and Parker Castle from NEK Guides were very helpful. Another positive aspect was having the local groups participate and present what they contribute to the area. The Celebration film was a big hit. The filmmaker Duane will be working on the final version for next year. Some thoughts about how to use the film... Show it in every town in the designated area. JM wondered if there could be a shorter outtake of the film that might be shown some places.

Administrative business: Jenn Grace has stepped down from serving on the UMATR board. UMATR now has an additional open seat in the town of Westfield; let LW or SL know if there is a Westfield resident that could join UMATR. LW went over the budget up to the current quarter and we are on budget this year.

Grants/Projects:

Final reporting from Westfield - Loop Rd culvert.

2025 River Community Grant notifications and first checks sent out.

2025 Municipal Grants - summary of application received and recommendations from the subcommittee. BD made a motion to fund the two highest scores - Richford Hardwood Hill Culvert Project and Westfield Loop Road Culvert Project and the other strong applications at 80%, - Berkshire Marvin Road Culvert Project, Enosburg Falls Missisquoi River Viewing project, Troy Bear Mountain Road Culvert Project, CS seconded. Motion passed. North Troy and Montgomery were not awarded grant funding. The total amount passed was the full \$40,000. LW will send out grant award notices.

2025 access point options: East Richford: most likely not for 2025, East Berkshire: to be used for the Paddle/Pedal. JL talked to the Weibels about the land that they own across from the office. They have been cooperative in previous talks about the space. North Troy: the take out is steep and difficult. There is another spot in N. Troy that might be good. This may include a FEMA buyout. BD said that he would like to see a takeout in N. Troy near the school. Further discussion about having N. Forest Canoe Trail folks possibly take care of East Berkshire take out steps.

2025 Events:

Event budget check-in and discussion of desires/priorities; set dates:

- Speaker Series (Jan-Mar meeting openers) - topics?
- Snowshoe events - Feb 22, 2025 - Charlie Hancock- Franklin Co.
March 8th- Jared Nursery for Orleans Co.
- Amphibian Road Crossing - Mar/Apr
- Annual Open House - Sunday morning on May 18th, 2025
- Film Screening - May 31st, 2025 evening
- Paddle Lesson - all day workshop June 28, 2025
- Paddle-Pedal - July 12th
- BBQ at Brault's. July 19th, rain date July 26th. Possible paddle to or from Brault's.
- Tubing on the Trout - June 24th? Evening TBD on SL contact with Christian

- Paddle & Picnic - August 3, 2025
- Swimming Hole Clean-Up: September 6th, 2025
- WSFF paired with Bean & Brew again (likely to be October 11th)
- River Explorers trip - Parker Castle, outfitter. 5Day/2 overnights **OR** 4days/3nights. SL will check with Parker about transportation and food costs for the 5day/2 overnight trip. July or August.

Other/Public Comment: JM mentioned a possible funding opportunity - fish passage projects, money going to the National Park Foundation. Culverts. Project name, organization, nps nexis, what it will cover
Montgomery contacted JM about a proposed sewer crossing.

Upcoming meetings: Dec 5 - Annual Joint UMATR/MRBA potluck - UMATR/MRBA office

Wrap up and adjourn. DS motioned to adjourn, JAL seconded, motion passed. Meeting adjourned.