

**Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes**  
**Thursday, September 21st, 2023 6:30 PM – UMATR Office**

**Attendees:** Susan Staples, Jenn Grace, Jacques Couture, Bryan Dickinson, Dan Seeley, Wendy Scott, Jim McCartney, Lindsey Wight, and Sarah Lunn

**Welcome, greetings - welcome back, Sarah!** Welcome back to our newest staff addition, Sarah, in her Field Coordinator position, and welcome to our newest Committee member, Jenn Grace! Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM.

**Review of August Meeting Minutes:** WS motioned to approve; SS seconded; Minutes approved as written.

**Updates on business from the August meeting:** New building signs are officially hung outside the office. Suggestion from the Committee to order lights to help with the display during night. JC suggested ensuring they are bug free lights and that the lights point on the signs. Committee also discussed ensuring that the permits were set with the town of East Berkshire for the lighting. Additionally, the Standish property in North Troy is still under discussion with the town of North Troy about the development of the MRBA nursery. LW and Ellen Fox did a walk through with the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) and the N. Troy Trustees the previous week. Town is in favor of the nursery, and two active trustees are also interested in being active and involved on the property. MRBA staff will continue to keep the UMATR Committee informed on progress of the nursery project.

**Event Overview:** Swimming Hole Clean-Up on September 9th was discussed. Five members of the public participated with LW and SL making the total participation seven. Chad Tyler who owns land next to the Creamery Bridge swimming hole is concerned about people using the swimming hole and not being respectful of the property and river. Erosion at the swimming hole is a concern for the landowner. Chad would like to meet with JL to come up with a plan to prevent this problem. UMATR staff will continue to check-in on the property and see if there are issues that can be addressed. LW and SL also noticed some of our river signs missing from Longley Bridge and River Rd and will be distributing replacement signs to town officials. ANM's River Celebration was canceled for this year due to the EEE virus being found at Louie's Landing, but UMATR and MRBA staff intend to participate at next year's event.

**Grants/Projects:** Final reporting from Troy - River Rd culvert and Veilleux ditching was shared with the Committee. Reminder that the 2024 Municipal Grants Round is open and due November 1st; please share with your towns.

**Wild and Scenic Film Festival:** We're in the countdown! Please seek sponsors and raffle prizes! Please help spread the word - posters and social media, etc. Please invite people personally, and mention the October 13th showing of No Other Lake, as well.

**2023 Upcoming UMATR Events: September 30:** Paddle and Picnic. **October 13-14:** Wild and Scenic Film Festival. No Other Lake showing with Q&A with cinematographer on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Film Fest on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Richford Conservation Commission is sponsoring a bat presentation on Wednesday, September 27th at the Fire Station. MRBA Other: Lake Lessons - seeking volunteers on 9/20, 9/22, 9/25, 9/27, and 9/29 8 AM - 12 PM in St.Albans. MRBA's Knotweed bonfire and maze at the end of October.

**2024 Events:**

- Speaker Series (Jan-Apr meeting openers) – topic ideas?: Bears, otters, Northern Forest Canoe Trail, Tree propagation, John Field Geology (National Park Service) on river dynamics and bank stabilization, Sara Widing - Nashua River, “Why’d the river do that?” or Mike Kline, Matt Muroski
- Snowshoe event(s)? – Feb/Mar
- Amphibian Road Crossing - Mar/Apr
- Sojourn??? - Early June, Hoping to recreate for June 2024
- Paddle Lesson – all day “workshop”? – July 14th (depending on Paddle-Pedal) - Committee supports this idea
- Paddle-Pedal – likely July 20<sup>th</sup> (or 13<sup>th</sup>?)
- Paddle & Picnic - August 18th, 2024
- Swimming Hole Clean-Up – Sept 7<sup>th</sup>
- WSFF in October? - Jay Peak is offering to help again next year
- Other event suggestions: Tubing event on the Trout river (possible to get Axiom involved), picnic included at RW? Discussion of bringing back the River northern Explorers trip.

**Other/Public Comment:** Phone number has now changed to 802-933-3645. UMATR Staff will begin updating previous signage and documents to reflect change.

**Upcoming meetings:** October 19th - Westfield Community Center, November 16th - UMATR office

**Wrap up and adjourn:** DS motioned to adjourn, JG seconded. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.