

**Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes**  
**Thursday, May 23rd, 2024 6:30 PM – UMATR Office**

**Attendees:** Dan Seeley, Jim MacCartney, Sarah Lunn, Lindsey Wight, Cynthia Scott, John Little, Susan Staples, Jacques Couture, Jenn Grace, and Duane Peterson

**Welcome, greetings:** Business portion of the meeting called to order at 6:40 PM.

**Review of April Meeting Minutes:** SS motioned to approve; JG seconded; Minutes approved.

**Updates on business from these minutes/notes:** LW and SL will make official domain change to umatrvt.org.

**Events Overview:** SL gave a brief overview of recent events including updating attendance numbers. In total, so far UMATR events have had attendance of over 140 people. Weather and timing didn't allow us to host an amphibian event, but we will try again next year. LW, JM, and JL attended River Rally in Grand Rapids, MI including a presentation. Had interesting conversations about conservation projects along other Wild and Scenic rivers. Open House was held on Sunday, May 19th, and was overall great success. Estimated attendance of around 45 people throughout the event. Discussed making this an annual event for future years.

**Administrative:** LW gave a brief update of the first two quarters of the year. We have reached approximately 35% of our budget, but we anticipate summer events will increase that.

**Grants/Projects:**

- **Richford 2024 Municipal grant final report - Wightman Hill Rd:** Richford has officially submitted their final report for their Wightman Hill ditching project. They ended up going over budget, and the towns covered additional costs.
- **New Access Point:** LW and SL met with Alex from the NFCT and Duane at the new access point location in East Berkshire. Construction will take place during the second week of July before the Paddle & Pedal event with NFCT.
- **Celebration Day Paddles, and filming:** SL and LW went over the general plan of each day, including needing shuttling help and sandwich pick-up on the first day. JG and CS have volunteered to help - thank you! Introductions to DP and the plan for filming. SL requests that Committee members register by June 1st if they intend on joining for any of the paddle days. Film will be taking place throughout the trip and DP will join for each day.

**Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers Gathering:** UMATR will be hosting the PWSR gathering at Jay Peak this October from 21-23rd. SL and LW will be planning this gathering with emphasis on providing a tour of local amenities and partners. Subcommittee formed with JL, CS, and SS to assist. SL will create a board with each gathering day so subcommittee members can bounce ideas. Goal to is to show the Sojourn Film during it. We will plan to reach out to local partners such as NFCT, NWSC, FCNRCD, Conservation Commissions, etc.

**2024 Upcoming Events:** **June 6-12:** Celebration Day Paddles. **June 29:** Enosburg Fishing Festival **July 13:** Missisquoi River Paddle-Pedal. **July 20:** Paddle Instruction Day. **July 25:** Guided Nature Paddle. **Aug 18:**

Paddle & Picnic. **Sept 7:** Swimming Hole Clean-Up **Oct 12:** Film Fest **Oct 21-23:** PWSR gathering

**Other Public Comment:**

**Upcoming Meetings:** June 20 - Westfield Community Center, July 18th - UMATR Office

**Wrap up and adjourn:** JL motioned the adjourn; DS seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM.