

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes
Thursday, March 21st, 2024 6:30 PM – Zoom

Attendees: Bryan Dickinson, Dan Seeley, Jim McCartney, Sarah Lunn, Lindsey Wight, Cynthia Scott, Russ Ford, Jenn Grace, Susan Staples, Scott Staples, Janet Lee (JAL), Darrin Ferguson, Jen Mynard, Jess Colby, Ranier Lucas, Sarah M, Dean Pierce, Jason Mayer, Brooke Fleischman, and Ben Fishbein

Native Tree Propagation with Intervale: Brooke Fleischman and Ben Fishbein discussed each of their roles at the Intervale Nature Center (ICN) based in Burlington, VT, and how their roles relate to the current growing operations at the ICN. Brooke is the Seed Coordinator for the state of Vermont, and is heavily involved with coordinating seed collection across the state with partners at NorthWoods Stewardship Center (NWCS). Ben works with propagation seedlings in the nursery and discussed the impacts of the recent flooding on the ICN. ICN started in 2001 and focuses on greenhouse propagation of native species, mainly starting from stocks of cuttings with rooting hormone and transplants. Deer browsing is a challenge for their baby trees, and the July flooding didn't seem to have as much of an impact as expected, but unknown the effects of the December flooding. The talk was recorded and will be available on YouTube. Thank you both Brooke and Ben for their expertise!

Welcome, greetings: Business portion of the meeting called to order at 7:28 PM.

Review of February Meeting Minutes: DS motioned to approve; SS seconded; Minutes approved with the addition of Scott Staples in attendance.

Updates on business from these minutes/notes: LW and SL have received notice of who has received scholarships for River Rally and will work towards registering everyone that is wanting to attend; WSFF Committee has film-watching assignments that SL has sent out via email to those who were interested.

Event overview: "Spring Tour": LW & SL hosted Nature Walk with Orleans County Forester Jared Nunery in North Troy at the parcel behind the American Legion on Dominion Ave. The event was very successful - with 14 people attending and 3 very well behaved dogs. Jared walked us down to the Missisquoi River and back, stopping along the way to discuss various species and ecological systems around us. Highlights include musclewood, silver maples, and butternut trees. Jared will be back on July 25th, 2024 to host another Nature Paddle with us.

Administrative:

- Website domains? vtwsr.org; umatrwildandscenic.org; ...umatrvt...? - JM suggested umatrwsr.org. Committee discussed the staying power of the current url. People know us through old ones. LW and SL will look into available URLs and discuss further.
- 2024-2025 Budget Discussion: LW walked the Committee through three different budget options that were worked out. BD made a motion for LW to refine option B and send out a final budget for email vote with the focus of decreasing project implementation dollars. JAL seconded motion. Motion passed. JAL is interested in opening conversations about fundraising opportunities. SL, LW, and JAL will set-up time to meet to discuss budgetary needs and fundraising opportunities.
- Current/previous budget overages and where to apply those funds: LW discussed different projects that UMATR could use their excess funding for including river rally. LW will send ask for approval via email about expenditure.

2024 Sojourn - budget, planning, goals: LW and SL will share more in upcoming meetings. SL will have event posted on UMATR website shortly.

Grants/Projects:

- **MRBA - Exploring Our Cultural Waters (2022):** MRBA collaborated with film producer Vince Franke of Perringriner Productions to create two films highlighting the Missisquoi from two different viewpoints: one of those of native Abenaki folks sharing their experiences, and the other about the archeology of the Missisquoi Delta. This grant has been completed, but due to time constraints of the meeting SL will send the Committee a link to the films and the final report by the next UMATR meeting.
- **Upcoming CISMA Activities:** LW and SL have been members of the Orleans County Cooperative Invasive Specie Management Association (OCCISMA) representing UMATR and MRBA. They will be attending a Statewide CISMA meeting on March 26th in Woodstock to meet with other CISMAs and invasive practitioners about Vermont's next steps in invasives.

2024 Upcoming Events: **April/May:** Salamander Night Patrols **May 13-16:** River Rally in Grand Rapids, MI. **May 19th:** UMATR/MRBA Open House **June 6-12:** Sojourn Day Paddles. See website for the rest of the year's events.

Other Public Comment: None for this meeting.

Upcoming Meetings: April 18th via zoom - presentation on Vermont Moose and Wildlife Photography.

Wrap up and adjourn: SS motioned the adjourn; JL seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.