

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes
Thursday, July 18th, 2024 6:30 PM – UMATR Office

Attendees: Dan Seeley, Sarah Lunn, Lindsey Wight, John Little, Bryan Dickinson, Jim MacCartney, and Susan Staples in person at the UMATR Office. Jenn Grace and Jacques Couture via zoom.

Welcome, greetings: Business portion of the meeting called to order at 6:35 PM.

Review of June Meeting Minutes: DS motioned to approve; BD seconded; Minutes approved.

Updates on business from these minutes/notes: N/A

Events Overview: SL & LW attended the Enosburg Fishing Festival on June 29th, hosted by FCNRCD. Unfortunately the weather that day was unpredictable which may have impacted the attendance - but was overall a great event and well run. It was a good opportunity to meet with local partners. The NFCT Paddle and Pedal happened on July 13th with 54 participants. Was a fun afternoon with sunshine despite the recent rains.

Administrative/Committee-business:

- **Upcoming grant rounds:** LW & SL are preparing for the upcoming grant season for UMATR grants and will be revamping the old application with dropbox. Discussion of recommended different programs/software.
- **Vests order:** LW will put in vest order next week; let her know if you would like to be included!
- **Fun Committee activity or summer meal?:** Discussion about hosting a UMATR committee meal during the next meeting. JL suggested we keep it simple. Holiday potluck instead!

Grants/Projects:

- **New access point:** There is a new access point in East Berkshire on Chris Benoit's parcel by the MVRT bridge off of Horseshoe Circle near the Pinecone Snackbar. Committee discussion of running list of potential upcoming access points for future years including: N Troy above the dam, across from the UMATR office under the 118 bridge, Trevor Gross property in East Richford, near the border in N Troy (old Butterworks field), improving portage around N Troy Dam, Coburn brook output, improving portage around Sampsonville, Boston Post Bridge, Marvin Rd/Stonehouse. Discussion of creating a management plan for our access points as we continue. There are some access points with problems (poison ivy, invasives), and/or require annual maintenance (implementation of steps, shoveling sediment, de-weeding pathways). JM suggested looking at other rivers and how they manage their access points. Also suggested poison ivy (PI) removal including an example for the Lamprey river removing buckthorn at new access point and PI via hand pulling. After a few seasons they have seen vast improvement on their PI problem.
- **Jay Land Project:** MRBA applied for LCBP Land Acquisition Grant for assisting the Town of Jay in purchasing to conserve a 194 acre parcel in Jay; an additional abutting 10 acres would be bought by MRBA. JC mentioned that N. Troy parcel likely have more growing days than the Jay property. LW will keep Committee updated when the grant award is decided in Nov/Dec 2024.

Wild and Scenic Film Festival: We are officially in the final 12 week countdown before the event. Thank

you to the Film Committee for watching your films! SL will be updating our events pages, posting tickets for the event, and reaching out for help getting raffle items and sponsors. We are asking each Committee member to find at least one raffle item to help. Reach out to SL if you have something to donate!

PWSR Gathering Brainstorming Session: We will be hosting the Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers Gathering at Jay Peak from Oct 21-23. LW & SL will be planning the conference and making a schedule for the gathering in the next few weeks, and are asking for planning ideas from the Committee. Discussion from the Committee about potential topics for discussions at the gathering such as: river access point maintenance, how to get people excited about rivers (event management, what events do people do, highlighting fun events from each river?), visioning project dialogue with the example of the Sampsonville Dam. Reach out to ANM folks to ask for their perspective or early settler history. Field trip locations to bring people to were suggested: Big Falls (geologist opportunity at Big Falls? Highlight Silver Maple Forest Floodplains), Swimming & rec areas (4 corners, 3 holes, RW park, Davis Park), Historic spots (Jeff Mill Book, Steven's Mill Site, Covered Bridges locations, balanced rock walk), Couture Maple Shop (tour farm, trees to the river), stop at the Office (during paddle or as part of tour?). Suggested for option field trips after a half day paddle (Monday morning/Wed pm option times?). Ability to get the local students involved (Parker/BD involvement?). Any more ideas can be passed along to LW & SL.

2024 Upcoming Events: **July 20:** Paddle Instruction Day. **July 25:** Guided Nature Paddle. **Aug 11:** Tubing on the Trout **Aug 18:** Paddle & Picnic. **Sept 7:** Swimming Hole Clean-Up; will combine with MRBA Rain Garden opening event **Oct 12:** Film Fest **Oct 21-23:** PWSR Gathering

Other Public Comment: N/A

Upcoming Meetings: August 15th - Orleans Co. Westfield Community Center, September 19th - UMATR Office

Wrap up and adjourn: SS motioned the adjourn; JL seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.