

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes
Thursday, January 19th, 2023 6:30 PM – via Zoom

Attendees: Sarah Lunn, Jim MacCartney, Carol Hickey, Susan Staples, Wendy Scott, John Little, Russ Ford, Jacques Couture, Dan Seeley, Cynthia Scott, and Lindsey Wight; guests included Dean Pierce, Dea Devlin, Jess Colby, Nancy Fitzgerald, Alex McKearin, Annika Fuller, Jed Feffer, Audrey Welsh, Roland Berube, Emalee, Bruce Edgerton, Shana Stewart-Deeds, and presenter Tim Palmer

Wild and Scenic Rivers Presentation: Tim Palmer presented on the history and story behind the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and how we came to have the protections that help us protect our 46 miles today. His excellent presentation included lovely photos from around the country, and details about the different categories of wild and scenic designation, as well as how these designations are implemented along a variety of rivers. He highlighted the key players who made the designation possible, the early battles to get rivers enrolled, how Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers (like ours!) found support, and much more! Interesting in learning more? Check out Tim's beautiful book: *Wild and Scenic Rivers: An American Legacy* (we also have a copy of this at our office that you're welcome to come in and enjoy). This was a fantastic presentation and the audience enjoyed it very much. We hope that Tim can come to Vermont to visit our rivers!

Business meeting was called to order at 7:15

Review of the December meeting minutes: JC motioned to approve minutes; JL seconded; minutes were approved as written.

Administrative: Q4 Financial Reporting: Lindsey reviewed Cynthia's quarterly report for the financials of October 1st to December 31st.

- LW reviewed 2022 financial report "By the Numbers"
- LW annual review: scheduled conversation with John/the MRBA; will also seek (anonymous) input from the Committee regarding her performance.
- Look for 2022 activities summary in each town report

Grants/Projects: We received the final report for the North Troy Hill Street Ditching and the Montgomery Conservation Commission's Town Forest Planning.

- Conservation Commissions – regional bioblitz: 4 conservation commissions (Enosburg, Richford, Bakersfield, and Montgomery) met for a potluck and to discuss upcoming events. Overlap in activities means we will advertise them as a regional Bio Blitz series; this will include our Amphibian Road Crossing activities.
- Interns: we have the budget for two interns; CS motioned that we proceed with seeking these summer interns; RF seconded and the motion passed. Lindsey and Sarah will start the search before our next meeting.

Newsletter: Sarah's draft looks great. This will be sent out to our mailing list, our email list, and be available at events. Discussion about sending it to families of kids who have participated in our programs – send PDF to teachers we've worked with; targeted shares – include the science teacher(s) in each school. JL motioned to send out without final review; CH seconded and the motion passed.

2023 Upcoming Events: Feb 25: Snowshoe in Orleans Co; Mar 4: Snowshoe in Franklin Co (both 10-12; locations TBD); Mar 19: Open House.

Most of our 2023 events are up on our website.

Online Speaker Series: Feb, Mar, April meeting. Ideas include beavers, paddling, and possibly the Rich Earth Institute's Peecycling idea? Peecycling is the movement to use urine on crops or even household gardens as nutrient recycling! They are looking to expand this idea into Northern VT.

Upcoming meetings: Feb 16th via Zoom (speaker series) – will also need to address the 2024 budget. Projecting the same amount as last year – Lindsey will send a budget draft around in advance of the meeting. One note is that she would like to plan to staff up at the end of this fiscal year, by bringing Sarah on as an employee once she finished her term of service.

JL motioned to adjourn; CS seconded; meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.