

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes
Thursday, September 19th, 2024 6:30 PM – UMATR Office

Attendees: Dan Seeley, Lindsey Wight, John Little, Wendy Scott, Bryan Dickinson, Ruby Bratcher, Cynthia Scott, Janet Lee, Russ Ford, Jacques Couture, Jim MacCartney, and Susan Staples in person at the UMATR Office. Sarah Lunn via zoom.

Welcome, greetings: Welcome RB to UMATR! Introductions were given. Business portion of the meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM.

Review of August Meeting Minutes: SS motioned to approve; JL seconded; Minutes approved.

Updates on business from these minutes/notes: UMATR Vests have been ordered. 2 rooms at Jay Peak have been reserved for UMATR use during the PWSR Conference.

Events Overview: We hosted our Paddle and Picnic on August 18th, with 11 participants and we paddled Westfield to North Troy. There was a full registration list, but unfortunately some last minute pull outs which we blame on the sprinkling rain in the forecast! Still a good turn out, and a group of excited paddlers; Trout River Tubing event was hosted on August 25th after rescheduling due to Tropical Storm Debby. 28 people attended, with a few no-shows, but their spots were filled up by people at Riverwalk Park already! It was overall a great success, and there was Committee discussion to continue this event next year. Discussion included the potential of charging people for attending to cut down on cost, encouraging bringing their own tubes to float (# of tubes is the limiting factor by Axiom Adventures, they only have 14 public tubes available for each trip), not offering lunch options or having people pay for their own. Committee would like to continue this event into next summer with the plan to propose Montgomery Recreation to take it for 2026 through the River Community Grant. On September 7th, UMATR co-hosted the Swimming Hole Clean-Up with MRBA's Rain Garden Reveal event. Overall successful, with 13 people attending and swimming holes mostly clean with totally only one full contractor trash bag and one tire.

Administrative/Committee-business: Budget: LW covered the budget up to the third quarter of the year.

Grants/Projects:

- **2024 Final Grant Reports:** Stonehouse Road Ditching and Veilleux Rd was completed and final report was submitted to LW. There are four outstanding grants from previous years that LW is in contact with.
- **2025 River Community Grant:** application round is now open on our UMATR website; please share widely and often!
- **2025 Municipal Grant application:** LW brought up a question from the Town of Montgomery asking if they would be able to apply to cover funds for dredging West Hill Brook. Committee discussion ensued and deemed that the funds could not be used for dredging. For the 2025 Municipal Grant app, LW has compiled the application into a google form that applicants can access online which was discussed by the Committee. Changes suggested/added included grammar changes to some questions, order of some of the questions, and how much budget items applicants should be required to share during the application process. JC reported as a member of the Westfield Selectboard that they are very appreciative of the money they receive and that it leverages more money. Discussion about whether or not we should wait to give the

grant \$ until the project is done. We will discuss it further at the January meeting.

- **Grant review subcommittee?:** SS, JL, RF, RB, SL, and LW will be on the subcommittee to review grants.

Wild and Scenic Film Festival: We're in the final countdown! Please seek sponsors and raffle prizes! Please help spread the word – posters and social media, etc. Please invite people personally; Jay Peak's Bean and Brew is earlier that day, and pairs well - there will be Japanese curry at the film festival for an in-between meal (and other snacks). Reach out to SL with any questions or needs.

2024 Upcoming UMATR Events: **Oct 10:** invite-only (Committee and MRBA) walk with Mike Kline to look at park work done on the Trout. Meet at Montgomery Rec at 4pm. **October 12:** Wild and Scenic Film Festival **October 21-23:** PWSR Gathering at Jay Peak

2025 Events: start thinking about priorities; we'll hammer out the full schedule during the October meeting. Tubing on the Trout was discussed as continuing next year.

Other Public Comment: N/A

Upcoming Meetings: October 17 Orleans Co. - Westfield Community Center; November 21? (Moved to november 14th) - UMATR office or another Franklin Co location?; December 5th: MRBA/UMATR annual potluck

Wrap up and adjourn: CS motioned the adjourn; JAL seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.