

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes
Thursday, August 15th, 2024 6:30 PM – UMATR Office

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

Welcome, greetings: Business portion of the meeting called to order at 6:37 PM.

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

Updates on business from these minutes/notes: UMATR Vests are still being ordered. Let LW know if you would like one before she places the order in September.

Events Overview: Only July 20th LW & SL hosted the Paddle Instruction with 3 contract instructors. The class was full with 12 people, but only 3 participants ended up attending. Some discussion was had about this issue as there is a lot of planning and extra cost (instructors - marginal (and budgeted) cost, but still a cost!) for an event that ends up having low attendance due to last minute cancellations. Suggestions include sharing the value of the course (what it typically would cost) in marketing; publicize the value of these activities in marketing and newsletters - maybe highlight for this years end of year newsletter?; pursue testing a nominal fee that is returned day-of? Or “low cost” - nervous that this may still deter people, especially first-timers, from joining or registering.

Tubing the Trout was moved from August 11th to August 25th due to Tropical Depression Debby. Currently not full, but SL will be sharing it and is not concerned; it filled up in no time during the first round. SL is also discussing with the Montgomery Rec about hosting this event next year - perhaps applying for a 2025 River Community Grant for it.

Administrative/Committee-business:

- **Budget:** Check in during September meeting

Grants/Projects:

- **2024 Final Grant Reports:** LW has received two final grant reports from the 2024 projects including: Franklin Co. Natural Resources Conservation District (FCNRCD) submitted a report on their Missisquoi Fishing Festival that was hosted on June 29th; Town of Troy completed their ditching and stone lined ditching on Vincent Rd.
- **Revamped grant applications for 2025:** Discussion of changing the applications for the River Community Grants and the Municipal Grants. UMATR Committee decided that the RCG application is still valid and can remain the same; LW & SL will spend time updating the Municipal Grant application by the September UMATR Meeting.

2024 Upcoming Events: Aug 18: Paddle & Picnic. **Aug 25:** Tubing on the Trout (rescheduled) **Sept 7:** Swimming Hole Clean-Up; will combine with MRBA Rain Garden opening event.

Oct 12: Film Fest: SL has officially started advertising the event, it is live on our website and on our socials. It is time to get raffle items; we are looking for a total value of \$25 per Committee member. Can be from multiple places - connect with SL once you get items!

Oct 21-23: PWSR Gathering: LW and SL need to know numbers for Committee members planning on attending. SS, JL, and WS will be in attendance all three days. Committee members are able to reserve a room at Jay Peak at the federal rate. JL motioned to reserve two rooms for UMATR Committee people to use during the conference if needed. Motion seconded by WS and passed.

Other Public Comment: N/A

Upcoming Meetings: September 19th - UMATR Office, October 17 Orleans Co. - Westfield Community Center? October 10th walk with Mike Kline at 4 PM at the Montgomery Rec on the Trout River.

Wrap up and adjourn: BD motioned the adjourn; JL seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.