

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes
Thursday, November 16th, 2023 6:30 PM – UMATR Office

Attendees: Jenn Grace, Jacques Couture, Bryan Dickinson, Dan Seeley, Jim McCartney, John Little, Cynthia Scott, Wendy Scott, Janet Lee, Ross Peebles, Sarah Lunn, and Lindsey Wight

Welcome, greetings: Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM.

Review of October Meeting Minutes: DS motioned to approve; CS seconded; Minutes approved as written.

Updates on business from the October meeting: LW and SL retrieved one of the two signs that were removed from the Loop Rd bridge, but were unable to remove the smaller of the signs. JG said she may be willing to drive for it even during the colder months! Likely will have to wait until warmer weather to try to grab the last sign. LW and SL also met with concerned landowners near the Creamery Bridge swimming hole in Montgomery. Nearby landowners were concerned about trash at the swimming hole, and people driving their trucks across the Trout river to access a beach. Discussions about contacting the parcel's landowners (St Onge) and Montgomery town about signage and potential blocking of vehicles entering the river. LW and SL installed some "Splash Not Trash" signs on the end of each side of the bridge. Have to return to tighten the bolts.

Administrative:

- **'Uniform' order:** LW suggestion is to have the Committee select clothing to have embroidered with the UMATR logo. New members get a piece of clothing which LW can get embroidered. Members who have already received a piece of clothing from UMATR, can submit an article of clothing (that they pay for), and LW will get it embroidered (paid by UMATR). LW also asked if Committee members would support getting blaze orange hats, and sharing the hat space with a MRBA logo. Committee agreed.
- **Recruitment postcards are out! - didn't send it to Richford; but should we do outreach? (would need to order more):** Already have two Richford Representatives (DS and SS), but always good to market the Committee. JC pointed out that it's valuable to solicit volunteers with the postcard. CS made a motion to approve purchasing more postcards to send them out to Richford for promotion. JG seconded motion. Motion passed to allow purchase of additional postcards to send to the town of Richford. LW & SL will prepare shipment of Richford postcards.
- **Lindsey review?:** LW asked if UMATR Committee would like to combine her annual review with MRBA, or wait until January for budget discussions in February. Committee agreed to wait until January to complete the review with LW.
- **Sampsonville Dam:** LW and SL attended a meeting with other Missisquoi partners earlier in November where a new grant source was mentioned. LW and SL think this source can be used to remove the Sampsonville debris. Committee gave the go-ahead to contact Noah Pollock from the NFCT about spending a day checking how the debris has changed from the previous survey.

Grants/Projects: Committee discussed changing the pay out model of the grants to not pull for the full half of the project up front. Discussion of changing the amount paid to 3rds. JM mentioned that the York River Committee is going to do some research about the implementation of the River Community Grants. LW & SL will reach out to other Partnership rivers and discuss how they structure their payouts. Sparked discussion from grant projects that have not been completed yet.

- **Enosburg TI grant from 2023 - may ask for extension:** Joey Clark from Enosburg has not completed a project that he received a grant for. He will need to submit a request for a delay if they don't get it during the 2023 year - which is likely. LW will be in contact with them.
- **2024 River Community Grants notifications and first checks sent out**
- **2024 Municipal Grants applications overview; funding recommendations from subcommittee; final decisions:**
 - Richford - Wightman Hill Rd, request of \$10,000 to complete an erosion mitigation project on Wightman Hill Road in Richford including stone lining ditches along 350 ft of road. Town of Richford will give a match of \$5,265 towards the project. BD made motion to approve, JG seconded, motion to fund grant approved.
 - Berkshire - Godin & Marvin Road Culverts, request of \$8,916.70 to replace two culverts on Godin and Marvin Road. Discussion about match in project that may be transposed incorrectly. BD made motion to approve, conditionally based on match funding, JG seconded, motion to fund grant approved.
 - Westfield - VT Culvert 111_Loop Rd, request of \$10,000 to re-establish ditches and replace a culvert on Loop Rd. Match provided by \$1,000 by using town equipment. JG made motion to approve, CS seconded, motion to fund grant approved.
 - Troy - Vincent Rd Ditching, request of \$10,000 to ditch at the end of Vincent Road. Discussion was made about unclear application. Unclear where the match will be coming from, though it is listed at \$2,000 on the application. Would like clarification on the location of the project with improved maps, and more details on how much ditching. BD made motion to approve, with stipulation that these concerns be addressed by the town of Troy, DS seconded, motion to fund grant passed if the town has concerns addressed.

2024 Events: Budget check-in and continued discussion of desires/priorities: SL has begun to post 2024 events on the UMATR website. Plans to have events posted by the time the 2023 Newsletter comes out in late December.

- Speaker Series (Jan-April meeting openers) January 18th River Dynamics, Feb 15th, Jaclyn Comeau on Living With Bears, March 21st, Kiana French and Brook Fleischman on Native Tree Propagation at Intervale, April 18th still TBD. SL awaiting confirmation from two potential talks.
- Snowshoe event(s)? - Franklin Co: Feb 3 (March 23 Snowdate), Nancy Patch's last year as Franklin Co Forester! Orleans Co. with Jared Nunery, March 9th (no back-up).
- Amphibian Road Crossing - Mar/April depending on weather: Discussion about whether the Committee would like to host another amphibian crossing training. Decided to wait a year and see how it plays out. SL will update the website and contact form to start getting the ball rolling.
- River Rally Gathering in Grand Rapids in Michigan in May: Committee discussion about possibility of renting a van for a group of Committee members (and SL & LW) to go. LW & SL will investigate costs and estimate the budget.
- Open House (Joint MRBA/UMATR)– May 19th
- Sojourn 2024 - Early June
- Paddle Lesson - all day workshop? - July 14th? Waiting on Paddle Pedal
- Paddle-Pedal - July 20th? LW will contact Karrie Thomas from NFCT to nail down the Paddle-Pedal date
- Nature Paddle with Jared Nunery - July 25th (July 30th Rain date)
- Paddle & Picnic - August 18th
- Tubing on the Trout River - Weekend in August. SL is in contact with Christian to get a rough budget and nail down a day.
- Swimming Hole Clean-Up - Sept 7th

- WSFF Paired with Bean & Brew again? (Which will probably be October 12th)
- River Explorers trip? LW suggested pairing with VT Community Foundation with Abenaki youth

Other Public Comment: JG asked about connecting with folks from QC side of the river. LW has made some connections during a recent Stream Wise meeting on behalf of the MRBA and will be meeting with some folks soon. JC mentioned a concern about a mud bike race that has been advertised to be taking place at Jay in April called Rasputitsa. Concerned about water quality. LW will contact LaDonna for a course map. JL suggested getting goodie bags for the local town clerks as a thank you for their hard work this year.

Upcoming Meetings: December 7th at UMATR/MRBA office for joint meeting and Holiday Potluck. January 18th, on zoom beginning with a presentation from Mike Kline about River Dynamics.

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