

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes
Thursday, January 18th, 2024 6:30 PM – Zoom

Attendees: Jenn Grace, Bryan Dickinson, Dan Seeley, Jim McCartney, John Little, Sarah Lunn, Lindsey Wight, Susan Staples, Scott Staples, Hannah Volk, Kerry Brosnan, Sara Gratz, Catherine Gott, and Mike Kline

River Dynamics and Floodplains: Mike Kline, retired VT State River Ecologist, presented on River Dynamics and Floodplains with an emphasis on reconnecting hydrology of our floodplains. Hydrology (how big are flows, how long do they last, what time of year) dictates hydraulics (how much flow, how fast, how deep) which in turn sort wood and sediment in the channel and floodplain through erosion and deposition. All the work to reconnect hydrology (and all the projects completed) affect these erosion and deposition processes. The goal is to increase storage capacity of the floodplains and be able to have a hydraulic load balance with sediment. In VT, the state is focusing on managing toward dynamic stream equilibrium. 73.5% of VT streams (2,300 miles assessed) are not stable. Increasing the channel will result in a lower water table and depleted soils. This presentation was recorded and is available on the UMATR website and YouTube channel.

Welcome, greetings: Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM.

Review of November Meeting Minutes; Overview of December Joint Meeting: JL motioned to approve; BD seconded; Minutes approved with minor grammar changes.

Updates on business from these minutes/notes: LW will be going to an embroiderer soon; get your 'uniform' orders in! Richford postcards were sent out; Holiday gifts to Town Clerks were delivered and appreciated; LW attended Rasputisa town meeting and will stay involved as she can

Administrative: 2023 activities summaries were submitted to each town: watch for them in your Town Reports!

- **2023 By the Numbers** - LW shared year-end accounting of 2023. Reach out to LW if you would like to see the graphs and numbers shared.
- **Budget changes/possibilities:** Sojourn film & sojourn; Sampsonville, higher costs for paddle lessons, River Rally - where do we stand and what can we move? - Due to lack of quorum, an official vote will be held at the next meeting about where to apply extra funds. If the money will be used differently than originally planned, LW will alert to NPS team.
- **Lindsey's annual review** - SL will send eval survey via email; Exec Committee will meet with LW to discuss
- **Exec Committee:** some Exec members terms are ending; discussion about keeping positions
- **ECO Americorps member** for 2024 - 2025? Host site applications likely due mid-late Feb. Discussion was held if MRBA supports getting a member, UMATR would support as well. Discussion about what that ECO could do for UMATR: help with events, mapping of our rivers, etc.

Events/activities: WSFF subcommittee formation: LW, SL, BD, SS, JG will be reviewing films

- **River Rally** registration opens Jan 29; scholarships available - applications due Feb 8. Let LW know if you would like to attend, LW will be checking budget to see how much of the trip can be covered by UMATR funds

2024 Sojourn - budget, planning, goals: LW and SL will share more in upcoming meetings. Discussion of sojourn was moved to the next meeting (Feb 15th) due to lack of time. RF and JL committed to help paddle.

- **Film project?:** LW and SL have been in discussions with Duane Peterson (from No Other Lake production) about the creation of a short film centered around the 2024 Sojourn. SL is applying for funding to cover the cost of film to produce and will have more updates soon.

Grants/Projects: Jay Community Land possibility: LW and Ellen Fox from MRBA have been meeting with the town of Jay to discuss the available property for purchase across from the Jay Recreational Center. If Jay purchases the land, MRBA will hope to make it a conservation project and potential site of the new nursery. LW will keep UMATR Committee updated

- **Access Point? & other NFCT collaborations:** LW and SL met with Alex Delhagen (new to NFCT) about potential access points along Missisquoi, and if there are other projects that NFCT can assist with. If Committee members have ideas, reach out to SL or LW.
- **Newsletter:** Draft of newsletter has been sent out to Committee via email. If corrections are needed, reach out to LW or SL. Newsletter will be mailed out shortly.

2024 Upcoming Events: Feb 3: Franklin County Snowshoe 1-3PM; Vincent's Bridge in Montgomery; **Mar 9:** Orleans County Snowshoe 10am-12pm; location tbd; **April/May:** Salamander Night Patrols? **May 13-16:** River Rally in Grand Rapids, MI. **June 6-12:** Sojourn Day Paddles - most of the year's events are up on our website.

Other Public Comment:

Upcoming Meetings: February 15th via zoom - presentation on Black Bears in VT

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