

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes
Thursday, June 20th, 2024 6:30 PM – Hybrid Meeting at Westfield Community Center

Attendees: Dan Seeley, Sarah Lunn, Lindsey Wight, John Little, Bryan Dickinson, Russ Ford, and Jenn Grace in person at Westfield Community Center. Jim MacCartney via zoom.

Welcome, greetings: Business portion of the meeting called to order at 6:35 PM.

Review of May Meeting Minutes: DS motioned to approve; JL seconded; Minutes approved.

Updates on business from these minutes/notes: N/A

Events Overview: We have officially finished our 2024 Celebration Paddles! We had attendance of 106 people (including staff) across the seven days of paddling. The weather was great for most days, and luckily we had gotten rain after the first day leaving the remaining week of paddle days having good water levels. LW and SL learned a lot, and have set-up a good planning succession for the next 5-year celebration.

Administrative: LW gave a brief update of the FY24 UMATR budget. \$158,216 has been spent or allocated, with \$51,783 remaining. No UMTAR-held grants currently - discussion for next UMATR meeting?

Grants/Projects:

- **Final reporting from Lowell School:** Jennifer Blay used funds to buy teaching materials and supplies for her students including waders and funding to trout in the classroom. UMATR Committee suggested inviting her to a meeting. LW will be in touch with JB.
- **Celebration Day Paddles Film project:** Filming is completed of the Sojourn Journey. Duane Peterson will be joining other days throughout the summer to get additional interviews with people. Will be joining SL and LW on July 12th for construction of MRBA Rain Garden and the East Berkshire access point as well as interviewing other UMATR Committee members. DP is also looking into including local poems/music/other aspects including reaching out to the Missisquoi River Band, and local libraries about poetry. Let SL or LW know if you have any ideas to include in the film!
- **Jay Land Project:** MRBA is still working with the Town of Jay about purchasing a parcel of land along a tributary of the Missisquoi in Jay. Potential for the MRBA Nursery to be housed there. MRBA will be applying for grant funding in July for acquisition funds of the parcel. LW will keep UMATR updated on the project.

2024 Upcoming Events: **June 29:** Enosburg Fishing Festival - SL&LW will be in attendance. **July 13:** Missisquoi River Paddle-Pedal. - SL will perform as boat sweep for the event. LW will be managing boats and running boat shuttles. If you are interested in volunteering, reach out to LW. **July 20:** Paddle Instruction Day. **July 25:** Guided Nature Paddle. **Aug 18:** Paddle & Picnic. **Sept 7:** Swimming Hole Clean-Up; will combine with MRBA Rain Garden opening event **Oct 12:** Film Fest **Oct 21-23:** PWSR gathering - interested in planning to reach out to SL.

Other Public Comment: LW brought up potential next places for access points to be installed. Suggestion is right before the North Troy Dam - where we took out for the Day 3 Celebration Paddle. SL&LW will make contact with the landowner. DS spoke on behalf of Richford and brought their planned project of

connecting spots around the town of Richford. They proposed the potential of building a covered stairway from upper Richford to the river. UMATR Committee was in support of them applying for grant funding for this project. Discussions of applying for grant funding for removing Sampsonville dam remnants which LW and SL will continue to seek.

Upcoming Meetings: July 18th - UMATR Office, August 15th - Orleans Co. Westfield Community Center?

Wrap up and adjourn: JL motioned the adjourn; JG seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.