

**Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes**  
**Thursday, October 17th, 2024 6:30 PM – Westfield Community Center**

**Attendees:** John Little, Wendy Scott, Bryan Dickinson, Ruby Bratcher, Janet Lee, Jacques Couture, Sarah Lunn, and Jennifer Blay in person at the Westfield Community Center. Lindsey Wight via zoom.

**Welcome, greetings:** Welcome Jennifer Blay to the meeting. Introductions were given. Business portion of the meeting was called to order at 6:38 PM.

**Review of November Meeting Minutes:** JAL motioned to approve; BD seconded; Minutes approved.

**Updates on business from these minutes/notes:** None this month.

**Events Overview:** Mike Kline joined us with some members of the MRBA on October 10th for a walk along the Trout River in Montgomery in which we learned about his project that was completed after the 1998 Montgomery Floods. Wild and Scenic Film Festival was a success with approximately 65 people in attendance. Some changes for next year include emphasizing that the event is a film festival from collected films from across the country, not localized in Vermont.

**Administrative/Committee-business:** Guest and Selectboard member of the town of Lowell Jenn Blay joined us to discuss how Wild & Scenic may impact the town if they were to get designated. JAL suggested having JC and Tony Braut come to the Lowell Selectboard meeting to talk about the benefits of Wild and Scenic. LW and JC will collaborate with Jenn to find a time to meet with Lowell to discuss further.

**Grants/Projects:**

- **2024 Final Grant Reports:** Final reporting from Richford Conservation Commission - Our River, Our Community, Our Future; FCNRCD - Piloting Wildlife Assessments; NCSU - Teen River Trip; Berkshire - Marvin/Godin culverts; LW gave an update on the remaining grants.
- **2025 Municipal Grant application:** applications are officially available on the UMATR website; share with your towns!
- **2025 River Community Grant applications:** Discussion of the applications for the 2025 River Community Grant by the Committee based on the grant review committee. Of the grant applications, six projects were voted to be funded. BD motioned to fund to top 6 projects based on the grant subcommittee's recommendation; JC seconded; Motion passed. JL motioned that UMATR sponsor a Youth River Trip (i.e. bring back River Explorers), BD seconded. Motion passed. JL made a motion that we shelve deciding what to do with the remaining \$1,373 for the next meeting. WS seconded. Motion passed.
- **2025 Access Point Options:** East Richford, East Berkshire, North Troy, other?; Shelved for now - will discuss at the November meeting.

**2024 Upcoming UMATR Events: October 21-23:** PWSR Gathering at Jay Peak; **Other:** MRBA knotweed bonfire - October 30th at Riverwalk Park

**2025 Events:** Event budget check-in and discussion of desires/priorities

- Speaker series (Jan-Mar Meeting openers) - topics?
- Snowshoe events? - Feb/Mar -SL will be reaching out to County Foresters for possible dates
- Annual open house? - yes!

- Amphibian Road Crossing
- Paddle Lessons - all day workshop; Discussion by Committee to expand this program: offer more paddle instruction days to increase odds of participation?
- Paddle-Pedal: July 12th
- Tubing on the Trout - Committee supports, SL will reach out to Axiom Adventures
- Paddle & Picnic
- Swimming Hole Clean-Up: September
- WSFF paired with Bean & Brew again (Likely to be October 11th)
- Other: Rivers Explorers trip? Adult canoe camping trip?
- BBQ at Brault's - cookout in the Brault's parking lot, JAL said that Tony would be up for it. We will plan on doing this as a fundraiser in the summer! Potential opportunity to paddle to the Braults? Or Paddle from Braults to Chase Dam?

**Other Public Comment:** N/A

**Upcoming Meetings:** November 21? (Lindsey has conflict - moved to **November 14th**) - UMATR office;  
December 5th: MRBA/UMATR annual potluck

**Wrap up and adjourn:** BD motioned the adjourn; JAL seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.