

**Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

**6:30 p.m. Thursday, February 21st, 2019**

**North Troy Community Building – 160 Railroad Street, North Troy, VT 05868**

**Attendees:** Jacques Couture, Helene Croteau, Russ Ford, John Little, Misty McCartney, Wendy Scott, Cynthia Scott, Dan Seeley, Sherry Willey, Jenevra Wetmore, Lindsey Wight, and Bruce Urie

Meeting called to order at 6:35 by Jacques Couture. Ad hoc Secretary: Russ Ford - Thank you Russ!

**Our guest speaker this month was Bruce Urie**, who spoke with us about conservation easements.

At 7:36 we moved into the business portion of the meeting.

**Minutes** of the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed. WS motioned, DS seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

**Administrative business:**

- a) Board Members are reminded to turn in their evaluation of Lindsey to Jenevra.
- b) Discussion of UMATR/logo marketing items was shelved until the March meeting.
- c) Explorers River Trip scholarship application: This is the weeklong trip led by Keith from Montgomery Expeditions, from Richford to Swanton. We discussed the need for the contract with Keith to specify details about his insurance coverage. Also discussed: the need to make sure that the adult-student ratio is appropriate and that adults pass a background check. Misty suggests that we provide the kids with W&S t-shirts. We looked at an example scholarship application. Lindsey will work with Keith and get it out to kids (probably through the schools).

**River Community Grants:**

Lindsey has game camera photos from our grant to Cold Hollow to Canada last year. See her to see the (pretty darn cool!) photos. A few are also on our website, under Grant Success Stories.

We received six applications totaling \$25,291 this year (we have \$60,000 earmarked for grants). The grants sub-committee recommended accepting the Lowell Middle School 'Trout in Classroom' and Grateful Shreds Search and Rescue proposals as submitted.

The sub-committee found that four applications (Montgomery Community Kayaks, Montgomery Community Snowshoes, Montgomery youth river trips, and Montgomery signs for the Riverwalk Park and Town Forest) were lacking some necessary details in the applications. The grants sub-committee recommended that those projects be sent follow-up questions for more information, including budget details, itemized specifications, and sufficient explanation of how the projects will support Wild and Scenic Outstanding Values. JL motioned and WS seconded to accept the recommendations, and to fund the four Montgomery projects if the stipulations are met. The motion carried.

We had some further discussion about re-approaching towns to encourage town applications for water quality related projects. John Little requested from Lindsey a one-page information sheet about the grants program with which he can approach select boards to solicit applications.

## **2019 Events**

Upcoming events were discussed including the Feb 23 snowshoe with Franklin County Forester Nancy Patch, and the March 16<sup>th</sup> trip with Orleans County Forester Jared Nunery. For the March 16<sup>th</sup> event, parking will be at the Couture's sugarhouse.

Wild and Scenic Film Festival: Lindsey is working with Jay Peak Resort to schedule this for late November or early December. She was also contacted by the resort about providing weekly programming for the resort summer camp. The Committee agrees with Lindsey's thought that this would only make sense if the children could be brought to the actual river for related activities.

A Fifth Anniversary Wild and Scenic Sojourn? Lindsey raised the idea of doing a publicity stunt paddle of all 46 miles of Vermont Wild and Scenic Rivers to celebrate and publicize our Fifth Anniversary.

River Rally: The River Network annual gathering is in Cleveland this year June 21 – 24, on the Cuyhoga River. This will be 4 days of speakers, workshops, and networking to protect clean water and healthy rivers. The Committee could provide financial support for any member who would like to attend this year. Early Bird registration ends April 30.

**Other Business:** Carol asked that we consider suspending January and February meetings due to concerns about darkness and poor roads this time of year. No conclusion was reached, although missing two meetings seems like a lot.

**Next Meeting:** March 21<sup>st</sup> at The Inn in Montgomery. Snacks will be provided.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:43** on a motion by WS; JL seconded.