

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

Thursday, July 18, 2019 – Westfield Community Center, Westfield

Attendees: Sue Brassett, John Little, Ellen Fox, Cynthia Scott, Wendy Scott, Mike Manahan, Russ Ford, Jim MacCartney, Dan Seeley, Jenevra Wetmore, and Lindsey Wight

Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm. Jenevra was our secretary for this meeting. This is her last board meeting with us as an ECO member! The Committee expressed our thanks and much praise for all the hard work that Jenevra has done during her service. We will miss her!

Minutes of the June meeting were reviewed. DS motioned to accept the minutes; WS seconded; minutes approved.

Paddle Pedal Overview: There were 51 racers and in total the event brought in \$1,200 profit for the NFCT. Next year's goal is to get 100 racers involved. The River Fest was not well attended, LW met with Karrie and Noah about this to continue the question of whether the River Fest portion should happen next year. To get more racers involved we could look at additional canoe rental outfitters- UVM outing club, outfitter in Quebec. Rise VT or Notch could possibly sponsor local's attendance next year?

Paddle Picnic Overview: Roughly 24 people in attendance, it was rainy and cloudy on and off but everyone still paddled and had a great time, we started at the border and used the new take out above the rapids in Richford. LW will send thank you to the boss who let us start from the border to keep the option open for the future.

Administrative Business: Financial Report – Cynthia covered the financial report for the second quarter of 2019. We have roughly \$25,000 allocated to future projects, but we are still looking for good we can do in and around our river - a larger project would be ideal. We need to communicate to towns that we'd like to help (AOP in mind). RF volunteered to assist his town with grant applications. JM suggested hiring a consultant like Stone Environmental to identify potential improvement projects to create an inventory to draw from. We could prepare an RFP or RFQ or approach consulting groups directly. WS motioned to pursue hiring a consultant to develop a list of potential projects/SB seconded.

River Community Grants: The kiosk was possibly over-budget but we do still need to give them the other half of the grant, now that the final report is in. Perhaps this will cover that overage.

Purchases: LW will purchase game cameras. We will get sample water bottles and bring them to the next meeting to select an option to order.

Splash Not Trash Signs: Wild and Scenic's signs are not appropriate away from the Wild and Scenic designated area (could cause confusion). WS motioned to fund 5-6 Splash Not Trash signs for the MRBA to use outside of Wild and Scenic/JL seconded; motion passed.

Lowell: Table at at Cajun's 12:00-1:30 to try to get in touch with residents. WS, CS, EF, JL, SB volunteered. LW hasn't heard back from them but will be reach out to schedule dates when she does. SB has a contact and can get in touch if time gets short.

Wild and Scenic Gathering: Activities – Bugworks, birding walk, forest walk – Kurt could do?, exuvia activity?, man in North Troy who has snakes, LW will reach out to VINS to see if they would be interested in bringing birds/snakes. Music: LW will reach out to the Missisquoi River Band. Food: DIY sandwiches again? This requires volunteers to man the food, but worked last year. Alternatively, Lindsey could see if she could get the rice ball truck to come.

Volunteers: come 11-2 for the event. Set up the tent Saturday: SB, RF (maybe), WS. Day off: SB, CS. Will need more help with all. LW will put call out to the rest of the committee. Ben and Jerrys or other orgs (hospital?) that do volunteer days are also options? Also MRBA volunteers, NFCT volunteers, Conservation Commissions? Post on Front Porch Forum to see if we can get more local help?

Projects: Access points – Davis Park steps could be improved; the Brownway access point could be improved with the installation of permanent steps

Westfield Bank stabilizations: No updates, moving along

Poison Ivy: We have permission from the state. Will investigate sheep as an option and reach out to other farmers than one in Montpelier. Talk with a botanist; what time of year would be best for control?

Subcommittees:

Film Festival: LW sent out film watching assignments to the subcommittee (RF, WS, JC, JL, JP, JW, LW), each person is watching roughly 3 hours of films. Jay Peak is donating the space. LW will make the excel doc of films public so we can see each other's reviews as we narrow down the film list.

Mapping subcommittee: RF, JL, WS, CS will meet this fall/winter

Creating a subcommittee about landowner communication and easements: WS and JL interested

Events:

August 15: Blue Grass against Blue Green Algae (MRBA event). Please come!

The next Wild and Scenic meeting will be August 14th- no objections to this change

Partnership WS Meeting in NJ: attendees could fly into Philadelphia or meet JM in Springfield, MA for carpooling. JL and WS interested. If interested let LW know.

Film festival: November 30th. We have will have 3 levels of donors (>500, 250, 100 as options)

Other/future event ideas:

Confluence project: could create a multi-organizational multi-month long event connecting our rivers to Lake Champlain. Could do with NRPC. This would be in the next two years. CS, WS, RF interested in setting this up.

Upcoming meetings:

Changed August meeting date to WEDNESDAY the 14th, due to conflict with the MRBA's event. – Franklin County – Richford?

September 19 – Orleans County – North Troy?

October 17 – Franklin County – Montgomery?

Wrap up and adjourn: DS motioned; CS seconded; all approved - meeting adjourned at 8:29.