

**Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 15, 2021 – Zoom**

**Attendees:** Jacques Couture, Carol Hickey, John Little, Cynthia Scott, Wendy Scott, Dan Seeley, Jim MacCartney, Russ Ford, Jeff Parsons, Ari Lattanzi, and Lindsey Wight

**Welcome/introductions; call to order:** Meeting called to order at 6:32pm.

**Review of the March minutes:** JL motioned to accept the; DS seconded; minutes were approved as written.

**Second “snowshoe” event at Big Falls:** 8 attendees enjoyed a spring tour of Big Falls with Jared Nunery. Fun to see the changes of the seasons happening at this location.

**Troy Covered Bridge:** Town very appreciative of the funds. They are waiting on cost estimates; acknowledge that State funding means reconstruction will take years. A temporary bridge should be installed before summer.

**Town Infrastructure Grants:** 6 applicants requesting just over \$28,000. 3 culvert project, 2 road/ditching improvements, and a feasibility study to improve/reduce the impacts of a multiuse trail. JL recommends funding all; CS seconds; all projects will be funded.

**Project updates:**

Amphibian Road Crossing event(s) – North Branch Nature Center’s Zac Cota provided a training about Vermont’s amphibians and about how to use the NBNC’s amphibian road crossing tools to monitor and report amphibian migrations. We now have many locations within our Wild and Scenic region that are likely spots to find amphibian migrations. Check it out and go see what you can find on a warm rainy evening!

Knotweed small grants – Landowners who are interested in knotweed control can choose one of our “approved” method. Simple application, should also include JP’s report to better outline the various ways knotweed may be controlled. How much? Do a per square foot costing? Do “up to” \$200? – this second seems reasonable. Ari will create a WANTED poster with a “\$200 reward”. Could use ag-bag plastic to smother?

**Solstice on the River:** Online resources ready. Will have handouts on June 20<sup>th</sup>. There are resources for boat loans in Enosburg and Richford. Will do a competition for the checklist... what prizes should be offer? NEED committee members to sign up to man the tables on Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup> – come to the May meeting prepared to commit to a timeslot! Suggestions: Add directions for where to park at swimming holes; create “recommended paddle” maps; make a “how-to” map/user guide video.

**2021 Events:**

Wild and Scenic Film Fest – costly; weird in these times – maybe do other events instead. Could do something solstice-y again in August.

Paddle and Picnic – easy to put on with fairly short notice; bring up again in May.

Paddle Clean-Ups – MRBA on July 27<sup>th</sup> in Troy/Westfield. July 11<sup>th</sup> we should do one in multiple locations. MRBA in August. Our Montgomery clean-up on September 11th.

Day Paddles and River Explorers Trip are both happening.

**Other:** Streams are LOW – about 1/10<sup>th</sup> their normal flow. JP has a client who wants to restore a dam in Westfield; NPS will probably look at it during normal permitting. please provide Ari and/or Lindsey with a biography, so we can post all our town reps on our website.

**Upcoming Meetings:** May 20 in person outside? Montgomery Pavilion?

**Wrap up and Adjourn:** JL motions; CH seconds; meeting is adjourned at 8:03.