

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee Minutes
Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:30 PM – Zoom

Attendees: Lindsey Wight, Sarah Lunn, Cynthia Scott, John Little, Dan Seeley, Russ Ford, Wendy Scott, Carol Hickey, Jamie Fosburgh, Bethany Remmers, Ellen Fox, Jeff Parsons, Judy Sefchick, Raymond Gagnon, and Michael Lew-Smith

Mussels in the Missisquoi River Presentation: Michael Lew-Smith started off our winter speaker series at 6:30 PM with a presentation of mussels within the Missisquoi river. He did a survey on a section of the river using grant money from the UMATR Wild and Scenic Committee River Community Grant 2021 funding. Presentation was recorded and will be available on the seminar page on the UMATR website (<https://www.umatrwildandscenic.org/2022-winter-seminar-series>).

Summary: found 3 species (there are 18 known in VT, and 4 expected in the study area), a number of beds with plentiful mussels and good demographics (a variety of ages present). No long-term data, just one sample location from 1995 - they did find the same 3 species, though. Michael will share these data with the Natural Heritage Program, so that the information will be available widely and may enable more comparisons in the future.

Business meeting called to order at 7:02.

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

Administrative: Q4 Financial Reporting: CS reviewed the report for the financials of October 1st to December 31st.

- LW reviewed 2021 financial report “By the Numbers”
- LW annual review: she will schedule a meeting with JC and ask for input from the committee members
- Look for 2021 activities summary in each town report

Grants 2021: We received the final report for the mussel survey, (a summary of which was presented to the committee at the beginning of the meeting). Towns were invited to apply for round two of our 2022 Town Infrastructure grants. Applications are due February 1st. Extra funds leftover can be used to fund other projects as available.

2022 Upcoming Events: Events page on website being updated with upcoming events, and flyers as SL is able to prepare them. Planning on adding more paddling lessons events as we are able.

- February 5th - Snowshoe in Franklin County led by Nancy Patch. Looking for suggestions for locations for the walk besides Brownway trail. LW suggested Longley Bridge Rd?
- Next month’s speaker will be at the beginning of our business meeting (2/17) again, and will be Kiley Briggs from the Oriante Society on Wood Turtles.
- March 12th, Snowshoe in Orleans County led by Jared Nunery.

Fiscal Year 2023 Budget: LW discussed the changes in funding allowances of the indirect/fiscal agent portion of the budget. Previously, MRBA received \$2,000/year for acting as our fiscal agent. Last year, that was changed to a 10% indirect fee (10% of our budget) to better align with other rivers. These

indirect dollars should only be used for Wild & Scenic costs - not things that MRBA would already have without being the fiscal agent (i.e. internet). JF clarified that if there are things that MRBA would not have but for the Wild & Scenic needs (for instance: a GIS subscription), it is still an appropriate budget line-item beyond the indirect. Lindsey will discuss with the MRBA to tease out what are MRBA costs and what are UMATR-derived - this will likely result in an increase of available funds (cut off a few budget items). Increased money could be used for more grant funding (RCG or Infrastructure?), education and outreach projects, or general projects (Sampsonville dam?). Budget is due by the end of February - Lindsey will send out a draft of the budget to the Committee with "A or B" options in advance of the approval vote at our February meeting. .

Other/Public Comments:

- WS complimented LW and SL for the development of the speaker series and for the informational flyers!
- JL will touch base with Scott Boyce about his future plans about the river access in Richford, and possibly the building across from the MRBA office.

Upcoming Meetings: February 17th, 6:30 PM Zoom. Meeting will begin with a presentation from Kiley Briggs on Woods Turtle conservation. Information can be found on our website.

Wrap up and Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.