

## **MRBA Meeting Minutes Thursday November 4th, 2024: MRBA Office**

Attendees: Wendy Scott, John Little, Sarah Lunn, Lindsey Wight, Ruby Bratcher, Ellen Fox, Debbie Girouard, at the MRBA Office; Craig Cimmons via Zoom

- 1) Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM.
- 2) JL motioned to accept the October meeting minutes, DG seconded. All in favor; and the minutes were accepted.
- 3) Event overview: Trout River tour with Mike Kline on Oct 10: Mike had completed work on the Trout River 20 years ago; showed off the changes; overall, he is pleased with how things have turned out on the river. Walk for the Wildlife at the Missisquoi Refuge on Oct 13: John and Debbie were there to greet people. A few people showed up. Oct 21-23 UMATR hosted other Partnership W&S Rivers - MRBA presentation along with other local groups (Friends of Northern Lake Champlain, Memphremagog Watershed Assoc, Franklin County NRCO). Knockout Knotweed Bonfire on Oct 30: 20 people came. Eliot Cluba was there to give a presentation on outdoor skills.
- 4) Administrative business
  - October Check Warrant
  - Budget to Actuals - quarterly check-in
  - Executive Committee conversation regarding staff benefits. Lindsey reviewed the results of the Exec. Committee meeting. LW shared the document; JL made a motion to accept, CS seconded, motion passed.
- 5) Projects:
  - Stream Wise assessments - six assessments were completed. Ellen Fox suggested having a get together with participants next year, encouraging them to invite others to join and perhaps find more people to participate. Summary meeting with all Streamwise Groups 11/7
  - Knotweed - planting the smothered plots
  - Setting up subcommittees; working on Org processes and planning - work with HR consultant: next step is to develop a scope of work/desired outcomes.
  - 2024 Newsletter - (now done)
- 6) Grants/Projects update:
  - Land Acquisition grant for the Tree Nursery in Jay - we got the money!!! Lindsey and Ellen will go to the next Jay Select board meeting.
  - Woody Buffer grants for spring 2025 - applied for 2 locations; approx 2.5 acres/750 stems
  - WUV dam removal (due tomorrow) - applying for additional funds for Sleeper Pond Dam
  - LCBP healthy waters grants (Education & Outreach, Org Support). Finally got our executed agreement for our "2024" E&O grant. The idea was to do some school outreach and have Ruby implement the program when we get the money. Possibility of a series of presentations for adults.
- 7) Checking in on big 2025 projects:
  - Sleeper Pond Dam Removal: Final Design from SLR expected by tomorrow 11/8/24. Next

steps: need to draft RFP

- Trout River Bank Stabilization: Need to connect with landowner, then create and send out RFP
- Westfield Bank Stabilization: Need to connect with landowner and NRCS
- Nursery: awaiting Land Acquisition grant; then need to make plans.

8) 2024 Events: Joint potluck on Dec 5

9) 2025 event desires/priorities. FCNRCD has funds to work with ANM.

- Education events about floodplains, dredging - share a stream table to travel to different events? (farmers markets, holiday markets, octoberfest) (LCBP E&O grant funds?)
- paddle with a geologist include geomorphology
- birding paddle with FNLC
- clean-up expansion ideas: rent a dumpster, make it clear that this is about keeping trash out of the river
- 50/50 raffle/roll tires into bucket for prize?, tire disposal voucher, ditch/stream clean-up (sides of road, not directly in canoe),
- capitalizing on green-up day
- JL talking with chief Gagne

10) Other business? JL talk to Waible (landowner across the river); get signage for access point

11) Next meeting: December 5th, 2024 joint MRBA/UMATR potluck

January 2, 2025 - 'annual' meeting: summary of 2024/planning for 2025

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm motioned by JL, seconded by WS.