

MRBA Meeting Minutes Thursday July 11th, 2024: Paul-Lin Dairy, Bakersfield

Attendees: John Little, Craig Cimmmons, Wendy Scott, Dani Boyle, Debbie Girouard, Sarah Lunn, Lindsey Wight, Ellen Fox, Paul Stanley, Brian Jerosé

1) Meeting called to order at 7:36 PM.

2) JL motioned to accept the May meeting minutes, PS seconded. All in favor; and the minutes were accepted.

Carryover topics from June minutes: N/A

3) Event overview: River clean-up in Swanton on June 22 - Good turnout of 10 attendees including DB and DG's first! Volunteers pulled approximately 230lbs. Will be doing an additional clean-up later in the summer with MRBA LEAP intern AR, Enosburg Fishing Festival June 29 - SL, LW, WS, and AR attended and unfortunately it was on a rainy day so not much public turnout, but overall a success in management and partners! Will assist next year too - may be a more school-focused event (or after-school programming).

4) Administrative business

Board members looked over and accepted the June Warrant. BJ motioned to accept the warrant, WS seconded. JL and CC abstained.

Donated boats - Albert Perry: LW & JL visited Albert Perry at Lake Carmi who donated several kayaks to the MRBA and misc other watercraft items.

5) Projects: Aine Remmers (AR) is returning as our summer intern! AR will be assisting MRBA with field work such as water sampling, tree maintenance, and planning a river clean-up.

Streamwise Assessments: Staff will be performing StreamWise assessments on streams focused on the Upper Missisquoi. Let SL know if you know any landowners/properties that come to mind for stream walks.

6) Grants/Projects update:

Riverwalk Rain Garden - SL, LW, and AR planted today. They will also lay wood chips down next week to finish the garden. Unfortunately the ECO Americorps crew were unable to join us due to the flooding. Stop by the Riverwalk Park to check it out!

Jay Land Project - Staff described the final proposal of purchasing the 10 acre "Piano Parcel". EF is in communication with the landowner; we can work with Vaughn Comeau for legal work. The Town of Jay has a purchase and sales agreement for the abutting 194.5 acres. MRBA will be seeking funding for both parcels through the LCBP Land Acquisition grant due on July 17th; to make a stronger application, Staff are asking for Board approval for JL to sign a MOU about purchasing the property. BJ made a motion to approve, DB seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

WUV Capacity Grant awarded, though with some questions. LW will follow-up.

Waiting to hear: VNRC small grant; LCBP Disadvantaged Communities

Upcoming grant opportunities:

- LCBP Land Acquisition - due 7/17: MRBA will be applying for the Jay Land Project
- Possible CWSP projects in the fall

7) 2024 Events:

- July 13: Missisquoi River Paddle Pedal; Looking for volunteers, reach out to LW if interested
- July tbd: Jay Peak - invited clean-up
- Sept 7: Rain garden "grand opening" collaborate with Cons Commissions (and UMATR Clean-Up)
- Oct 21-23: UMATR Hosting other rivers - partner highlights. Ideas for MRBA highlights?
- Quebec visit/get-together?

8) Other business? N/A

9) Next meeting - August 1, 2024 at MRBA Office in East Berkshire, September 5, 2024 at office?

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm motioned by CC, seconded by DG.