

## **MRBA Meeting Minutes Thursday August 1st, 2024: MRBA Office**

Attendees: John Little, Wendy Scott, Sarah Lunn, Lindsey Wight, Sarah Cushing, Paul Stanley, Brian Jerose

- 1) Meeting called to order at 6:45 PM.
- 2) PS motioned to accept the May meeting minutes, JL seconded. All in favor; and the minutes were accepted.  
Carryover topics from July minutes: N/A
- 3) Event overview: LW, SL, EF and intern AR completed the implementation of the pollinator rain garden at Riverwalk Park finishing it with mulch. We will have a grand reveal event in combination with the UMATR Swimming Hole clean-up on September 7th, and we will be inviting our local conservation commissions to join us.
- 4) Administrative business  
Board members looked over and accepted the July Warrant. BJ motioned to accept the warrant, SC seconded. JL abstained.  
  
ECO Americorps 24/25 Member: Ruby Bratcher will be serving as our Watershed Engagement Coordinator, shared between MRBA and UMATR. She graduated from SNHU in 2024 and is interested in education. We plan to have her lead our education programs (an afterschool program in Enosburg as part of our Watershed Education for All Ages Grant - though we are awaiting for our signed agreement from LCBP), connecting her with KV about BugWorks, other local schools teachers like Sara Caldwell from Montgomery, Todd Marlow from Richford, Jenn Blay from Lowell. If Board members have any suggestions for projects for her, let SL know!
- 5) Projects:  
Streamwise Assessments: Staff has performed two 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.  
Knotweed: liquid nitrogen trials, planting on the smothered plots in the fall. SC suggests looking for success of grazing studies.  
Nursery annex surviving: AR spent time weed whacking around our baby trees and reports that all the trees look great except for some boxelders.  
Lake Lessons 2024: MRBA will be participating again in Lake Lessons in 2024 during the last week of September and potentially the following week in October. If interested in volunteering, reach out to LW or SL!  
Setting up subcommittees: will be moved to a Board meeting in the winter when there are less summer events going on.
- 6) Grants/Projects update:  
Did not receive LCBP Disadvantaged Communities Grant

Jay Land Project - MRBA officially applied to the LCBP Land Acquisition grant on 7/17; awaiting to hear back anticipated in Nov/Dec

Delayed or Extended LCBP grants: E&O grant will extend into next year as we are still awaiting our signed agreement. Org support is still awaiting which is limiting LW from purchasing a new laptop. BJ suggested that LW purchase a MRBA laptop that can be used as spare while awaiting for Org Support dollars. Then that laptop can be spare for ECO Americorps (which is required). JL made a motion for LW to purchase a basic laptop for backup for this reason. WS seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming grant opportunities:

- Possible CWSP projects in the fall?
  - Montgomery: plot turnaround at Comstock bridge
  - Rico Floodplain Reconnection

#### 7) 2024 Events:

- August 13th: AR planned clean-up on the Trout River.
- 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?  
Discussion included: Covered bridge tour, highlight successes such as Brownway restoration, community destinations (boat rentals), highlight tree plantings, bring to visible spots (Couture’s Maple), highlight uniqueness of river such as how it travels into CA and cuts through a mountain range in Glen Sutton, highlight Big Falls and history of local mills. Missisquoi Wildlife Refuge, ANM
- Quebec visit/get-together?

8) Other business? Board discussion over local flooding concerns with emphasis on the restoration efforts following these events. Brainstorming ideas of education such as bringing together road crews and foremans with an event with the stream table. Also discussion of educating about why dredging rivers is BAD.

9) Next meeting - September 5th, 2024 at MRBA Office in East Berkshire, October 3rd, 2024 at office?

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