

MRBA Meeting Minutes Thursday January 4th, 2024: MRBA Office

Attendees: Craig Cimmons, Sarah Cushing, John Little, Cynthia Scott, Sarah Lunn, Lindsey Wight, Brian Jerose, Kate Donlon, and Diane Leary

- 1) Meeting called to order at 6:34pm.
- 2) November minutes have been moved to February meeting for approval; overview of December joint meeting - LW will share the slideshow shown during December meeting to Board members and UMATR Committee members
- 3) Event Overview: Knotweed Bonfire (way back in November): Had 7 participants show up - occurred during the first "snowstorm" of the winter season. SL made a knotweed game that can be reused at other events, and overall the event was a success!
- 4) Administrative business
 - Board members looked over and accepted the December Warrant.
 - 2023 By The Numbers: LW went over the 2023 numbers
 - 2023 Volunteer Hours Tracking - Board; LW will be sending out as an online form to be filled out
 - Staff review overviews; LW has met with EF and SL, will be finishing up other reviews soon; Board officers are open for reelection, will be moved to Feb meeting to discuss
 - 2024 Budget and workplan; subcommittees; BJ motioned for approval; CC seconded
- 5) Grants/funding update: Appropriation letters were sent to our towns at the end of November
 - Received Watershed Resilience Funds from VCF's Day Break Fund: 2 years of support
 - Applications: Woody Buffer, LCBP E&O, LCBP Stream Wise, LCBP Org Support, private funder invite
 - ECO Americorps member for 2024/2025? \$8,000; applications due Feb 21. - ECO member could be assisting in the nursery also E&O project with local schools? Staff will discuss and bring suggestions to the next meeting.
- 6) Outreach/fundraising
 - 2023 Newsletters - feedback?
 - 2024 Events and activities:
 - Open House - May 19. Consider doing a kayak raffle? CC will be investigating
 - Summer Sessions in Montgomery - ok'd by Montgomery Rec, SL and LW will seek funding for musician
 - Other fundraiser: Jay Peak poster w/QR "donate", event at Jay during spring runoff, golf tournament? (CC will inquire feasibility) Custom shirt; Bumblebee Bistro or other business sponsors?
- 7) Other business? EF and LW have been attending meetings about the Jay Community Land potential property for nursery on land across from the Jay Community Rec trails. LW also attended a meeting about the Rasputitsa bike race happening in April and will stay in the loop about it. LW and EF have suggested to race organizers to have a free wash station after the race for participants to wash off the sediment in a designated area. BJ also mentioned that the rail trail along BC needs trees - SL will monitor what the area looks like using the state's FFI tool.
- 11) Next meeting - February 1st, 2024: MRBA office.
Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm.