

## **MRBA Meeting Minutes Thursday October 3rd, 2024: MRBA Office**

Attendees: Wendy Scott, Paul Stanley, John Little, Brian Jerose, Sarah Lunn, Lindsey Wight, Ruby Bratcher, Sarah Cushing, Debbie Girouard, Dany Boyle at the MRBA Office; Craig Cimmons via Zoom

1) Meeting called to order at 6:34 PM.

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

Carryover topics from September minutes: LW set a time to meet with the Executive Committee to discuss next year budgeting.

3) Event overview: Rain Garden “grand opening”: Had a successful event in combination with UMATR with 13 people showing up. AR showed off the garden and we cleaned up some local swimming holes; Lake Lessons was held and we taught three schools (Swanton, SATEC, and GEMS) about rainfall and soils but location had to be changed in response to EEE; SL and RB went to Sara Caldwell’s 8th grade class to teach them about What is a Watershed as well as demonstrated the rainfall simulator. LW led discussion asking if the Board had any suggestions for where to send RB to offer these educational programs (bugworks, rainfall simulator), DB suggested contacting after school programs.

4) Administrative business

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

Budget to Actuals - quarterly check-in: LW will send these numbers out to the Board to discuss during the next meeting.

5) Projects:

- Streamwise Assessments: 4 down; 2 to go, Staff will continue performing assessments and have two landowners lined up.

- Knotweed: liquid nitrogen trials, planting on the smothered plots in the fall. Staff will be replanting over plots with native trees (silver maples) later in the fall

- Setting up subcommittees; working on ORg processes and planning - work with HR consultant; Moved to colder months, DB offered her help with this process!

6) Grants/Projects update:

- Land Acquisition grant - awaiting to hear from LCBP and are expecting response by the end of October
- LCBP healthy waters grants - awaiting for their announcement

7) Checking in on big 2025 projects:

- Sleeper Pond Dam Removal: Need Final Design from SLR; need to draft RFP by Nov.
- 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; DB offered help if needed to continue lines of communication going

- Nursery: awaiting Land Acquisition grant; then need to make plans (or rekindle conversation with N. Troy)

#### 8) 2024 Events:

- Oct 10th: Trout River walk with Mike Kline; 4pm at Montgomery Rec
- Oct 13: Walk for the Wild at the Missisquoi Refuge - MRBA has been invited to help amplify this event by hosting a 5k paddle in the afternoon. If interested in volunteering, reach out to LW.
- Oct 21-23: UMATR Hosting other rivers - partner highlights. Ideas for MRBA highlights?
- Oct 30th: Knockout Knotweed Bonfire with MCC - from 4-7pm, SL will check in with the

#### 9) 2025 Event Desires/Priorities?:

- Board discussed event desires for next year including: furthering connections with ANM, Education events about floodplains, education events about dredging, geologist talk (UMATR webinar?), Paddle with a geologist?, a dumpster event where we rent a dumpster and encourage people to bring their trash to dispose of (ensuring proper disposal without the economic burden and stopping trash from entering the river!), tire disposal voucher, 50/50 raffle/roll tires into bucket for prize?, ditch/stream clean-up (sides of road, not directly in canoe), capitalizing on green-up day?

#### 9) Other business?: None for this meeting.

#### 10) Next meeting - November 7, 2024 at office, December 5th, 2024 joint MRBA/UMATR potluck

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm motioned by SC, seconded by DG.