

## **MRBA Meeting Minutes Thursday May 5th, 2023: MRBA Office**

Attendees: Cynthia Scott, Craig Cimmons, John Little, Paul Stanley, Wendy Scott, Kate Donlon, Sarah Cushing, Ellen Fox, Lindsey Wight; Brian Jerose joined via zoom (until Lindsey's computer died).

- 1) Meeting began at 6:36pm with greetings and introductions
- 2) Review of April meeting minutes: PS motioned to accept, CS seconded. All in favor; minutes accepted as written.
- 3) Administrative business
  - MRBA received the Lake Champlain Basin Program Organizational Support grant for equipment to have a screen to have Zoom meetings projected.
  - Banking: John collected materials from two different banks: Peoples Trust and Community National to decide if we should change banks. Craig suggested Community National Bank because they are on both sides of the Mountain. Also, because they are community banks instead of a large corporate bank. Paul commented that TD Bank did give us money through the Affinity program, although we did have to solicit members to join the bank. WS motioned to leave TD; CC seconded; motion passed. CC motioned to open and account with CNB; JL seconded; motion passed.
  - Check writing: Paul, Kate, Wendy, and Cynthia volunteered to sign checks.
  - Warrant system: Lindsey explained her new system using a warrant. All board members looked it over. Moving forward: Lindsey should distribute the Warrant early, so that Board members can look it over and ask any questions. Then the agenda item can just consist of approving it.
  - Board Recruitment: Discussion about possible new people who might be available to join the board. Wendy mentioned someone in Fairfield. Lindsey mentioned that it would be good for us to find someone from Orleans County. The problem is for them to travel to the office for meetings and that there are fewer people to choose from in Orleans County. Craig reported that he wrote up a "Call to action" to recruit board members. Craig has a new job at Jay Peak as Director of Ski and Ride School and Community Relations. Craig pointed out that since MRBA is a community entity so it would be appropriate to bring MRBA into the Jay Peak community.
- 4) Office Needs: dump run during the day sometime. May 25th will be a day to remove furniture from the building across the street. 9am.
- 5) Communications/volunteer opportunities: What's Out Here series: May 13th – assist with Fishing Festival in Enosburg on St Albans Street. There will be 15 presentations and activities.

June blog topic suggestions? River clean-ups.

Can we make a running list of topics that Corrina can pull from for the blog post. Also, please share any MRBA-related writings you may already have that could be reused or revamped as a blog post.

- 6) Organizational Planning: strengths and weaknesses overview; next steps: priorities for the organization: Discussion about the difference between the levels of understanding, respect and cooperation between watershed groups and state organizations. Sarah Cushing gave us some history about the Brownway project. She emphasized the importance of taking care of the trees on that land. "Trees planted by"

plaques at our planting sites?

Lindsey will send out the list of Strengths and Weaknesses (acronyms spelled out) for board members to look at and comment, with a second page prompt for crafting priorities.

7) Projects: tree plantings - 4 days of planting last week. 900 trees were planted with some help from AmeriCorps volunteers, community members and staff.

LEAP interns: applications are due tomorrow but the date could be pushed out.

8) Grants update: received funds for Community Water Walks; partnering with Lake Lessons (MOU with SAM); what to apply for Ben & Jerry's funds for - knotweed festival with music ("Know Knotweed")?

9) 2023 events: What's Out Here series: May 13th – assist with Fishing Festival? May 18th: OCNRCD meeting 12:30-4 in Newport; May 20th – Richford Nature Rally Clean-Up; June 8: Women Farmer's On The Water - Lowell to Lane Rd; 10am-2pm; July 8 – location – Below the dam in Enosburg Falls to Kane Rd; Quebec visit/get-together - Werner; woman reached out via our website; invite to the July potluck?

10) Other business: Paul, Craig, and Lindsey went to the Brownway Trail and collected all of the leftover plastic tree protectors. Paul mentioned that the filter fabric isn't removed from the trees at Brownway and they will girdle the trees if they're not removed. Discussion about how to go about removing it. Possibility of having a Community Service Day with Jay employees. Ellen suggested putting 5 days on the calendar to visit previous sites.

NRCD tree planting brochure. Paul shared a packet that will be given out at the tree sale this weekend. JL would like to connect with Walter Elander regarding concerns about expanding snowmaking.

11) Next meeting - June 1, 2023 at the office

Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.