

MRBA Meeting Minutes Thursday June 5th, 2025: MRBA Office

Attendees: Dany Boyle, Michael Kondratowicz, Nate Chates, Brian Jerosse, John Little, Sarah Cushing, Paul Stanley, Debbie Girouard, Sarah Lunn, Lindsey Wight, Ruby Bratcher in office Wendy Scott via zoom.

- 1) Greetings and introductions as needed. Meeting called to order at 6:33pm.
- 2) Review of May meeting minutes. SC moved to accept, DG seconded, motion passed.
- 3) Overview of Open House. It was a nice and easy event with old and new faces. Could be flexible with the date next year if it is too busy at that time of year.
- 4) Administrative business
 - May Check Warrant. DB moved to accept, DG seconded, JL abstained, motion passed.
 - AmeriCorps programs update & funding assessment: extending Ruby into the fall? Ruby has officially exited the Americorps program and is now working as a temporary employee of the state. MRBA/UMATR still sending money to host Ruby- it is cheaper than hiring her on. August 8th Ruby's contract with the state will expire. There is money to keep her on until the end of the year. Have a job description + duties written up for next meeting.
 - Nursery Manager position. Now live on MRBA website. Has been posted on a few other job boards, some are too expensive and not worth it. Will start to review applications when LW back from trip. LW will send out posting info to the board. Send posting to NOFA jobs board as community member and Common Good VT.

5) Grants/funding update:

JayLand/Land Acquisition - Executed agreement from LCBP! Town's attorney will hopefully seek a new P&S from the receiver soon.

Sleeper Pond Dam removal: Applied for CWSP funds for additional implementation dollars - received approval at the June 4 BWQC meeting; yay!

LEAP intern: supporting Lake Champlain Sea Grant - Lindsey will be speaking at Site Review for LCSG; Aine recorded a video about her internship experience to share at that.

Upcoming/ongoing: Applied for FY26 Tactical Basin Planning; WUV Capacity - additional dollars.

6) Policies and Procedures update: Scope of work for Financials/HR consultant - Lindsey will reach out to a consultant whom other groups have worked with and liked - these folks have helped with both organization and financial structure.

Subcommittees? - need to flesh out list of what subcommittees would be useful (upcoming meeting).

7) Projects:

- Sleeper Pond Dam: permits in process; bid steps upcoming.
- Nursery - trees purchased from FCNRCD sale. planted at Nursery. Think about putting up fencing for deer deterrent - esp in winter
- WUV E&O: North Troy events and activities. Public Lands (?) Richford town forest, Berkshire town forest, community center, CREP at Burton: could map a potential trail as part of this effort; possibly a loop to Big Falls and back?
Remember to be conscious about over use of natural resources. Also don't transmit noxious weeds. How can we be sure to communicate this if we are encouraging people to explore these public lands?
- LCBP E&O: municipal trainings planning. River dynamics, drainage from properties,

settling ponds, ditches and their impacts, Zapata Courage: presentation on wetlands, or logging roads, how do crews manage sediment currently, how to zoning/planning work on that?, swimming hole stewardship, private or ag ditches that enter waterways, how to manage knotweed.

Make sure not to duplicate what is already being done/offered by the State, NRPC, etc.

8) Outreach/fundraising

2025 events and activities:

- Clean-Up – July 20 in Highgate
- Possible trivia night at the Black Lantern Inn?
- Jay Peak connection: fishing event? Casting for Recovery.

Other desires (just to keep track of these): figure out ways to make the association between skiing and clean water: event (or at least table) at Jay during spring runoff/Pond Skim (next year?), Jay Peak poster w/QR “donate”; custom shirt?

- Plan a Tactical Basin Plan meeting up at Jay Peak?

9) Other business? Nate joined the board MK motioned SC seconded, motion passed- welcome Nate! MRBA should purchase a cornhole set to be used for education & outreach events? \$80 cost. JL motioned to pass, BJ seconded, motion passed.

10) Next meeting - July 3, 2025 – Annual BBQ at Paul-Lin Dairy (sad to miss the folks who can’t attend!)

August 7, 2025 – MRBA office

Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm. BJ motioned, SC second, motion passed.