

MRBA Meeting Minutes Thursday September 4th, 2025: MRBA Office

Attendees: Nate Chates, Cynthia Scott, Wendy Scott, Paul Stanley, Debbie Girouard, John Little, Dany Boyle, Michael Kondratowicz, Brian Jerosse, Jimmy Young, Lindsey Wight, Ruby Bratcher, Ellen Fox, Aaron Hesse

- 1) Review of August meeting minutes. Typo in the "Other Comments" section: Witchcat Falls, not witchcraft! CS motioned to accept with edit; PS seconded; motion passed.
- 2) Meet Aaron, our new Nursery Manager. Welcome + greetings to Aaron.
- 3) Administrative business
 - Secretary nominations - DG!!!
 - August Check Warrant: DB motioned, NC seconded, motion passed. JL abstained
 - Mailchimp update: now using a paid account. Going well.
- 4) Events overview: Ruby attended another St. Albans farmer's market - with our new beautiful cornhole boards - thank you Ellen! Ruby has tabled at the farmers market 3 times with 1 more to go for the season. Gets a lot of action but prob not worth it: long market for the size, and Ruby has mixed feelings.

Ruby did make a connection with Northwest Access TV while at the market, and they want to do a show together.

- 5) Grants/funding update: Applied for Access Point funds from LCBP; applied for VHCB AmeriCorps member
- 6) Policies and Procedures update: Financial consultant; HR consultant; subcommittees? Ellen has had conversions with Anthony at sustainable jobs fund; will circle back.
- 7) Projects:
 - Stream Wise assessments - still need 4. Now 3- have one scheduled for next week in Montgomery. PS suggested Brain Westcom
 - River clean-ups - UMATR's swimming hole clean-up (based out of Riverwalk Park) is this Saturday. Would like to do 1 or 2 more to take advantage of low water.
 - Sleeper Pond Dam: project has begun!
 - Piano Parcel, JayLand status update
 - Other outreach/activities related to E&O grants- intro to paddling w/ NEK Guides, school program w/ NEK guides - ruby has reached out to montgomery, Elliot Cluba walk series

8) Outreach/fundraising

2025 events and activities:

- Community Water Walk - schedule a September walk. Have a series scheduled, Sep 17th 5:30-7 Montgomery Town Forest, Oct 6 5-6:30 Jay Land,
- Trivia - Rivers Edge Pizza or Rail Trail Pub? Will pursue rail trail pub for a wednesday. Include a round of pictures with a "where is this" questions
- Plan a Tactical Basin Plan meeting up at Jay Peak?
- Annual newsletter/appeal timing? Aim to get out between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

2026 events and activities - start planning/brainstorming

- Jay Peak connection: fishing event? Casting for Recovery
- Other desires list: 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?

Get donors invested at Jay Peak- make QR code and images for local businesses (JVI, jay country store, rail trail kiosk) “clean water starts at the top” “our clean water makes your winter”. Be conscious of location in relation to other non profits.

Get some new MRBA swag.

9) Other business? LCBP- takes three people to replace Colleen- one lives in Montgomery! (Ali Jackson). Carolyn Bronz- BCC wants someone to teach kids about the trees they planted - MK. Soil builders workshop - Fairfield Tues 16th & South Hero Wed 17th. September 20th- Enosburgh Harvest Fest

10) Next meeting - October 2, 2025 – MRBA office
November 6, 2025 – MRBA office

Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.