

Meeting Minutes Thursday, April 1st, 2021: via Zoom

Attendees: Wendy Scott, Lindsey Wight, Ellen Fox, Paul Stanley, Lauren Weston, Craig Cimmons, Brian Jerose, Cynthia Scott. Guest – Lauren Weston

- 1) Meeting was called to order at 7:06. Welcome to Lauren Weston, new Franklin Co NRC Manager. Intros, and looking forward to working together.
- 2) Review of March meeting minutes – Paul made a motion to accept. Cynthia seconded. All in favor.
- 3) Logo wear – Discussion about what people want to order. Lindsey shared the name of the company that does the embroidery and that has a large selection of clothing and hats, Vermont Embroidery in Orleans Vermont.
- 4) Newsletter update/membership drive – Lindsey got a quote for \$838 which does not include postage. Cynthia asked if the Regional Planning office might be able to print our newsletter. Lindsey will ask. There was a proposal to send out a one-page membership drive letter and have the longer newsletter available online. We will decide when we find out if Regional Planning can print for us.
- 5) TBP survey – share the word. Lindsey asks that we send the Tactical Basin Planning survey around. We want as many people as possible to complete the survey. Link to survey here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/4Bmg5kKqER>

Paul suggested that there should be consideration of mud from dirt roads entering the waterways in the spring as part of the planning process. (Fairfield purchases 6-10k cubic yards of materials per year. Lots of materials, and often very clay-y, which doesn't help with mud season.)

Also seek input from maple-producer.

- 6) ARC training and opportunities – Amphibian Road Crossing. Lindsey and Wendy attended a Zoom training on how to participate in this program. There is now a map available with sites marked to collect data on number and species of amphibians. We are hoping to go out on the next warm rainy night! Lindsey will send out the links.
- 7) Other volunteerism -
Tree planting May 2 in Montgomery on Chas Salmon's land
Lowell (Randall's farm)
Westfield (O'Donnell's)
Interest from Montgomery School middle schoolers – get them outside and doing service. Suggestion to have them view the video of the restoration project of the Trout River after the flood. Possibility to have them then take a tour of some sites from the project to see how it has progressed, maybe do flow monitoring or some other geo study. Could get a stream table, too? Cynthia wondered if they could plant willow stakes on the banks of the Trout River across from the school. Brian thought it might be hard to plant there due to rocks and gravel. Appropriate to check out though. Lindsey will reach out to Barry Cahoon, Mike Kline, Chris Smith about the video.
- 8) High Meadows Fund project – forming town cohorts. Intern? This project is intended to help form cohorts of folks in the Eastern side of the watershed since there is not as much participation there. Lindsey asked the group what we thought about adding hours to an intern who will be working for Wild and Scenic to also work on this MRBA project. Cynthia made a motion to hire the intern. Brian seconded. All in favor.
- 9) LEAPS Lake Education Awareness Program. We will be seeking two interns for this program which will include 70-80 hours of work. Lindsey is asking help in finding High School students who might be interested. She will check with local science teachers, such as Sarah Downes who works at the Cold Hollow Career Center in Enosburg. She would like us to spread the word. Letter of interest and letter of recommendations are due April 28th.

- 10) Plein Air painting – We are partnering with the Montgomery Arts Center for a Plein Air session on April 24, 2021 from 10:00 – 3:00.
- 11) Potential projects with FERC funding – Becky Tharp is working through the relicensing process, and there may be some funding available for projects near the dams. We proposed several projects around knotweed infestations. Fingers crossed!
- 12) Events for 2021
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| River clean ups: Saturday, June 26 th | Westfield to Troy |
| Saturday, August 28 | Below Enosburg Dam |
- UMATR events – Solstice on the River. Suggestion that MRBA have a demonstration/information table in the parking lot across the river from the office in East Berkshire (Brouillette Farm).
- Lindsey asked if we wanted to hire Kurt Valenta to have more Bugworks workshops, possibly including some for adults. Suggestions of sites:
- Fairfield Community Center summer camps
 - Enosburg Town Band performances (if they happen). Bugworks could offer a workshop before the concert
 - Montgomery summer sessions (if they happen).
- 13) Other business - None
- 14) Next meeting – May 6, 2021 – We will attempt to meet in person at the Montgomery pavilion if it's warm enough.
- 15) Cynthia Scott made a motion to adjourn, Wendy Scott seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:03pm.