

## Meeting Minutes Thursday February 3rd, 2022 6:30 PM: Zoom

Attendees: Lindsey Wight, Craig Cimmons, Cynthia Scott, John Little, Paul Stanley, Ellen Fox, Wendy Scott, Marlana Valenta, Sarah Lunn

- 1) Welcome; check-in with everybody
  - Welcome our new board member, Marlana Valenta!
- 2) Review of January meeting minutes
  - JL made motion to accept, PS seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.
- 3) Administrative Business
  - Change of indirect/sharing costs with UMATR - some of the things we have been “splitting” are no longer allowed if we have a standard 10% of indirect.
    - We are able to share the cost of rent and phone, the remaining costs will be charged directly to MRBA or UMATR based on respective uses.
  - Transition to employees? Jay Peak HR insights - Craig
    - CC discussed with Jay HR the process and requirements of having the switch from contractor to employee for both LW and EF.
    - LW falls under the categories listed as qualifying as an employee:
      - Free from control or direction
      - Service is in the course of the regular business of the MRBA
      - Engaged in independently established trade (grant writing), LW would need to own UI and advertise services to the public outside of the MRBA
    - Biggest part about switching to employees is the requirement to cover unemployment insurance which the MRBA would have to front, though it seems to be inexpensive. No benefits are legally required, but are generally expected and are considered “perks”.
    - Next steps are to ask Allyson at Jay to help run the expected cost for the MRBA
  - Community Relations Coordinator
    - Decided on timeline: applications due by March 25th, hire by early May.
    - Discussion on where to advertise: facebook, 7 days, st.albans messenger, RMS, socials, indeed, craigslist, google jobs, FPF are all potential postings
- 4) Outreach:
  - No submissions to the photo contest :(ul style="list-style-type: none;">  - Will try again later in the spring/ early summer
- Newsletter - planning the timing
  - Plan for a late March release, SL will begin drafting
- Public meeting?
  - Suggestion to have public meeting in the spring, if COVID is quieting down. Suggested Micheal Lew-Smith give his presentation about his research on freshwater mussels in the Missisquoi River
- 5) 2022 Grants updates
  - Applied: LCBP E&O grant - Water InSight with high school students (mostly during the fall)

- Woody Buffer - 3 acres along Coburn Brook in Troy (btw rt 100 and the River); 1.5 acres in Sheldon, downstream of Magnan's.
  - VAAFM CWIP - to support 2 years of ECO Americorps membership, with focus on farms
  - Partner-grant applications: LCBP large E&O - partner with Lamoille County Cons. Dist. for teacher training. Also submitted letter of support saying we would help FNLC expand in-school programming Wind, Waves, Variables (Kurt). TNC-led 3-year effort to build capacity for Process Based Restoration in headwater areas.
  - Upcoming: Watershed Grant
    - LW and SL will try to come up with ideas and apply this week, likely river clean-ups with our interns leading
  - Updates: Forward Philanthropy - answered some follow up questions. Nothing from our LCBP AIS application (expected notification in December)
- 6) Water Sampling Planning - La Rosa: requested 9 sites - 3 on Conburn in Troy, one on Lucas in Richford, one on Snider, and 2 on an unnamed trib in Westfield, one on Hannah Clark and one on the Troy in Montgomery. Water InSight program at some scale
- Existing water InSight updates - Ellen.
    - Hope to involve more students and have it integrated as part of course work during internships or maybe capstone projects?
      - Student volunteer, contacting school guidance counselors as a way for recruitment and potential use as capstone project for students, Annette @ RHS
    - Students are mostly available from September - November
    - Planning on using two sites: Wright farm in Enosburg and Couture farm in Westfield
      - Paul and EF are meeting the Wrights mid-Feb
    - Results would hopefully be used as a guiding tool to reduce P
    - Most of the data is translated into models which is based on estimates, water InSight is more of a mathematical approach
- 7) Tree Planting planning in spring 2022 - maybe about 1,500 trees. Hopefully can work with schools. Will be recruiting volunteers
- 8) The River in Quebec - Marlena
- MV reported on connections she made with folks in QC who are also working to clean-up and conserve the Missisquoi
  - MV has been in contact with a group in Sutton, QC, a potential partner for MRBA
  - OBVVM Missisquoi Bay organization which is a bigger group with more funding, they work with farmers and have information available about resources and research on the river.
    - All currently in french, need to translate! Ellen Stanley available to translate? Possible field trip to the lab?
- 9) Other Business:
- EF Update on North Troy Town and Forest (NTTF)
    - VLT will decide on 2/4/22 whether or not to buy the land with the Housing/Conservation board and other stakeholders. There will be a

meeting on 2/11/22

- Troy selectboard is supporting the restoration of the wetland, new k-8 school.
- Friday Feb 11th: VHCB,FPR,ANR, VTWD - high -level meeting
  - If no decision tomorrow from VLT, then maybe moves on Feb 11th to at least protect the river corridor
- Stars won't list property until March 1st

10) Next Meeting - March 3rd, 2022 - VIA ZOOM.

- Will potentially look at an in person meeting in April? Bakersfield FD available for April meeting. Will reassess during the next meeting.

11) Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.