

Meeting Minutes Thursday, February 6th, 2020: Paul and Linda's Enosburg house, Enosburg

Attendees: Cynthia Scott, Paul Stanley, John Little, Wendy Scott, Brian Jerose, Ranier Lucas, and Lindsey Wight

- 1) Meeting was called to order at **7:02pm**.
- 2) Review of January meeting minutes – **WS motions; PS seconds; all in favor.**
- 3) Administrative business

John Little applied for a large LCBP E&O grant to do a video series - possibly be 5 segments (i.e. sewage treatment plants, water treatment plants). These will be aired on Across The Fence once a month, with the goal of getting out to the public how these systems work and how they impact water quality. John will be the producer/tour guide. MRBA will be the fiscal agent. Could we juxtapose/combine ag concerns with this, too? DEC/VAAFM & ATF.

John also applied for funding through W&S to hold River Rats, a 2-week white water camp for 6-8 kids to increase the local paddling skills.

Discussion about having an email added for John to use when he's conducting MRBA business. Wendy made a motion to accept, Brian Jerose seconded. All in favor. Lindsey will set up something (president@mrbavt.com or board@mrbavt.com)

Newsletter review/proposal for 2020 – Lindsey and Ranier had struggles with pretty much every step this year. Discussion about having UPS do the production of the newsletter (this year took Lindsey and Rainer ~20 hours of their time to produce). Could we find grant funds to cover these? Lindsey will put the Newsletter on the calendar for October, so that we will have it roughed out by our Nov meeting; we'll do the letters with personalized notes at this meeting, then Lindsey can add the final 2020 numbers and be ready for production.

Volunteer advertisement – an ad was run in the County Courier asking for a volunteers who would work on membership recruitment and other projects. No one responded. Discussion about other ways to recruit members and get the word out about MRBA (FPF, FB, maybe an article in SAMess or the MAX).

Side note: recent article about kids in Fairfax sampling snow for P levels.

Project Manager position – John drafted a job description. Lindsey explained that the goal of taking on more work (the HMF-supported work) is to get the Orleans County towns involved, as well as Richford and Montgomery.

Cynthia went over our most recent Quarterly report (Q4 2019)

- 4) Grants/projects update

Lake Lessons – happening again next year. The target will be 4th graders, we'll invite a few new schools and will hold up to 9 sessions.

Conservation Commission Jamboree - 4 local Conservation Commissions, MRBA and Cold Hollow to Canada met to share what projects everyone is working on. It was a good get-together and will hopefully be something we do semi-regularly.

Watershed grant application – Rainer has been working on an idea that came from the Conservation Commission Jamboree: making maps of town-owned public properties, with the goal of better linking community members to their local resources.

High Meadows Fund Convening and next steps – see Project Manager position above – need to apply for the HMF funding to enable us to expand our efforts.

Newport Center Dam – Lindsey met with the town selectboard in November. They expressed interest in learning more... Lindsey is still working on it.

Projected income for 2020 – Lindsey brought a spreadsheet that shows the grants we currently hold, those

we have applied for, and some of those we may go after.

5) Outreach/Projects

Tree plantings for 2020 in Troy – trees on order. How much is a reasonable expectation? – **volunteers are variable: it depends on the side conditions and weather how much they can accomplish. Might be best to hire crews. Or do a combination of volunteers followed by paid crews. Brian has a simple projection formula for estimating the time required to plan a certain number of stems that he'll share with Lindsey. Lindsey will connect with planting crews.**

Sheldon plantings? **Lindsey will see if the rumored sale will change anything.**

Westcom – **Lindsey needs to visit the site; should be fairly easy to get some trees there... but will that fix the problem?**

6) Events

Forum planning – **It will be at the Enosburg Community Center. Ideas of topics to cover:**

- **2019 water sampling results;**
- **protected wetlands and headwater streams have been rolled back at the Federal level - possible speakers on this topic?;**
- **show historic slides of the river corridor – how the river has changed over time?;**
- **flood plain forests;**
- **Bethany to show the culvert project in Richford? Or discuss other flood resiliency & infrastructure topics;**
- **Connect the Halloween flood to water quality (Bethany? VTrans?).**
- **Need catchy title: “Floods, Wetlands, and Phosphorus, Oh My”?**

Annual River Clean-Up in Westfield in July; **not likely to get AmeriCorps service day, so we can just plan to do a usual Saturday clean-up. Discussed possible dates; will finalize at the March meeting.**

BGABGA – funding ideas? **Wild and Scenic? Canoe/Kayak companies sponsor? Band potential – Brian suggested Mad Mountain Scramblers, based in the Mad River Valley area. Lindsey also had interest expressed by the Dale and Darcy Cahill Band.**

Benefit Concert - **Quincy? Bates/Green's sponsor?**

Partner events – **Winter Farmers Meeting; March: WQ Forum through VAAFM?**

7) Other comments?

8) Next meeting – March 5, 2020 – FORUM at Enosburg Community Center?

April 2, 2020 – Location?

May 7, 2020 – Location?

CS made a motion to adjourn, BJ seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:04.