

Meeting Minutes Thursday, February 4th, 2021: via Zoom

Attendees: Cynthia Scott, Paul Stanley, John Little, Wendy Scott, Brian Jerosse, Ari Lattanzi, Lindsey Wight, and Craig Cimmons

- 1) Meeting was called to order at **7:04pm**.
- 2) Review of January meeting minutes – **JL motions; CS seconds; all in favor.**
- 3) Administrative business

Craig Cimmons is interested in joining the Board. Disclosure: Craig is the husband of our Coordinator, Lindsey. The Board is ok with that relationship; Craig will recuse himself from any decisions involving conflict of interest. WS motions; BJ approves; all in favor. Welcome Craig!

Lindsey will invite Lauren Weston, the new District Manager for the Franklin County NRCD, to join our March meeting so that we may “meet” her.

Lindsey provided additional details about our current finances – how much of our current funds are already earmarked for projects that simply haven’t yet happened, versus how much is unallocated and therefore may be used for staffing or other elective or administrative costs.

Please fill out your volunteer form for 2020 and return to Lindsey. Thank you!

Logowear: Board expressed interest in a variety of items: hats, longsleeved tshirts, fleece jacket/vest, hooded sweatshirt, sun/wind shirt (thin, synthetic, light weight, high vis clothing for fieldworld, wool shirt – “flannel” (like Johnson Woolen Mills). Lindsey will research some costs and bring to the next meeting.

- 4) 2021 Grants update – **Happy to report that our LCBP E&O application for working closely with ANM and the Field Studies class at MVU was the top ranked application! We will be working to name stream to amplify their importance for people, do tree plantings and hopefully a clean-up paddle with the War Canoe. We also received funding for our LCBP Org Support – “Expanding Impacts”, which incorporates making turbidity tubes, as well as recruiting volunteers. We have also submitted an application to CVNHP to work with ANM, and to the Watershed Grant to expand the Water InSight program.**

We have unspent 2020 funds for Bugworks, can we reallocate those to support art projects and events (i.e. Plein Air Painting) along the river? JL motioned; CS seconded. Discussion: Is Kurt still active, will he still be able to provide Bugworks? Yes, we still have our annual 2021 budget to support Bugworks programming if schools are able to do this type of learning in the spring. All in favor.

- 5) Public Meeting – **Possible topics will include: knotweed efforts, Adopt-A-Site program, Water InSight. Lindsey, Ari, and Ellen will plan it for Thursday, Feb 25th, held via Zoom; invite a wide audience. We will record it as well.**
- 6) LaRosa program – **Lindsey suggested 13 sites around the watershed – mostly in the upper reaches. Nearly all are sites that have been sampled at one time or another. Some are project or problem related, some are for long-term, and some hope to identify “good” locations. We will only sample for Phosphorus and Nitrogen; there will be 8 sampling days throughout the season, plus some high-water events. Next step is for the State to let us know what they think of our proposal.**

Becky Tharp has been providing assistance through a WUV Train-the-Trainer grant, helping us look at past data and make a plan. Lindsey, Ari, Ellen, and Emily Porter-Goff will continue working through our 15 years of sampling data and attempting to make a database system which renders it more useable for the public. One hope is to have students be able to work with the data from their town and report out about information they have gleaned.

PS: Farmers Watershed Alliance meeting involved lots of discussion about data on cover cropping, rotating crops, etc. Big push for soil health and how we can SHOW that we’re reducing phosphorus (if do xyz, reduce p by this much). Can sampling be aligned with this – perhaps the strip sampling, if not LaRosa? Agency of Ag is doing this type of data collection/management; perhaps we can get data from them.

BJ: Weather and precip are also hugely impacting sampling – most P gets to the lake on high flow days - - concentration is tied to total flow. The amount of phosphorus that is mobilized at a storm of ½ inch is way different than what is mobilized at a storm of 1". With climate change, we're going to see more high flow events more frequently. In the last 30 years, the frequency of intense storms has increase by a large number (perhaps 57%?). In the past, we've been able to complete good projects that stabilized banks (i.e.), but sadly, these are not holding up to larger storms – we will need to adapt, and perhaps change our approach. Carbon sequestration to improve soil health may be a factor in improving water quality.

- 7) Newsletter – Apologies, remains on Lindsey's to-do list. Personalize the membership ask? Not this year, simply due to COVID concerns – keep things simple.
- 8) Continued 2020 Successes and Highlights – Edible rain garden was built. We will continue this program and expand on it; Sheldon trees – we will continue to monitor the success of this planting; River clean-ups – do more? Board says yes. Shall we do a "Green-Up Your River campaign, too? "clean up your swimming holes", or even do a stretch of the river if the weather is ok – on Green-Up day? We'll also look to expand the Adopt-A-Site program, we got good feedback from our pilot adopters.

Mapping – Ari showed off her updated watershed map and asked for changes before she officially puts it up on the website. Fun to see! Would be a great teaching tool. Lindsey mentioned that LCBP produced a gymnasium-sized map of the Lake Champlain Basin. It would be cool to get something like that focused on our watershed.

- 9) 2021 plans and hopes – Secured projects include:

- continuing the Edible Rain Garden work (expand to another school?)
- the High Meadows work (build peer groups focused on watershed resiliency)
- continue Tactical Basin Planning by making in-community connections, as well as offering public meetings
- expand/improve our virtual programming (Bugworks, rainfall simulator/Lake Lessons)
- Design work for Bank Stabilization on Longley (seek implementation funds)

New projects include:

- 2 planting sites (Tony Brault's (Redstart), and (applied for funds at) Randall's (volunteers))
- LEAPS internships – 2 high school students, ~half days for 4 weeks in July, focused on plantings/small riverbank improvement projects, but also able to look at knotweed, tree survivorship, and possibly sampling data. Will want to get them on a paddle trip, too!
- Knockout Knotweed
- Stewardship work with ANM/Field Studies
- Other and "organizational" projects: Adopt-A-Site expansion, turbidity tube building – for Water InSight?, Streamwalks, digitize photos/documents, water sampling database

Projects and event hopes: JL will connect with landowner in Montgomery – someday hope to get trees at the 1802 house (or restore the floodplain?); Bank stabilization on the Tyler Branch across from Vaillancourt's – upcoming Design and Implementation Funds from WUV. Continue Water InSight!

- 10) Next meeting – March 4, 2021 – via zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56pm.

HOMEWORK:

1. Lindsey will send eval questionnaire to the board
2. John and Lindsey will meet
3. All will fill out volunteer sheets
4. All will let Lindsey know what their clothing wishes are.