

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic River Study Advisory Committee
Minutes

Thursday, February 18, 2010, 7pm
Montgomery Elementary School
249 School Drive
Montgomery Center, VT 05471

Welcome & Introductions

Report from the Nominating Committee re: establishing Committee officers

- Nominating Committee update
We agreed that voting on committee officers should be an agenda item for the next meeting. The Nominating Committee will be accepting nominations from the floor at the next meeting, and will come with their recommendations for officers. The Nominating Committee discussed the options of a traditional chair and vice-chair or two co-chairs. This is still being debated. There was mention that these 2 officers could be one from each side of the mountain. Minute taking was discussed. It was suggested that Shana take the minutes. She responded that she would, but that made her less able to actually participate in the meeting. Mike was taking notes and offered to look over the minutes to be sure nothing was missed. Someone suggested a rotating note-taking. Ideally, someone would volunteer to be the secretary and take on this responsibility. This would only add up to 12 times/year.
- Bios and photos
Please continue to send your bios to Shana and Bethany. All committee members are requested to submit a bio which will be used only for internal purposes (not posted on our website). Those interested should indicate in their bio their desire to be considered for a officer position on the study committee. We will take some pictures at the next meeting, also for internal purposes, so that we can all get to know each other better.
- Proposed slate of officers
Jacques Couture - Chair
Jayne Chase - Treasurer
Dexter Randall was suggested as a possible candidate from Troy. He needs to be contacted to see if he's interested.

There was discussion about the operation of the study committee, something which should be visited in future meetings. Anne voiced her opinion that the committee be governed by consensus. Sylvia suggested that there be a default agenda item for public comment. There is usually an 'Other' section of the agenda where other topics can be discussed. This would be a fine place for any additional agenda items. Ken wondered if we have an open structure then who votes, and who has the final vote. Jim noted that the desire of the NPS is that there are official appointees from each of the towns. These are the appointees by the Town Select Boards noted in the 'flyer for town meetings' section below. We need to remember that this is an evolving process, and that we are working to try not to exclude any interested parties. Jim suggested that we hold off on setting boundaries now, as he feels they will become clear as we move forward. First, let's work on getting all the official representatives from each of the 10 communities.

Shana's official contact information

Shana Stewart
Study Coordinator
Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers
Wild and Scenic Study
2839 VT Route 105
East Berkshire, VT 05447
802-393-0076
shana.stewart@vtwsr.org
<http://www.vtwsr.org/>

Share draft flyer for Town Meetings (Shana)

Shana, Rolf and Jim are working to create a Poster and Flyer to have at each of the 10 towns on Town Meeting Day next Tuesday. Mike, Anne, Jeff, John and Todd volunteered to disperse them to the various towns. The final draft will be posted on our website. Here are the current official appointees.

The Wild and Scenic Study Committee is made up of two official members from each of the ten towns in the study area (Berkshire, Enosburg, Enosburg Falls, Jay, Lowell, Montgomery, North Troy, Richford, Westfield, and Troy). These official members are appointed by the towns. The following is the current roster of appointed members from each of the ten towns:

Berkshire	Montgomery
1. Todd Kinney	1. Carol McGregor
2. _____	2. Todd Lantery
Enosburg	North Troy
1. Robert Johnson	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
Enosburg Falls	Richford
1. Mike Manahan	1. Hib Doe
2. _____	2. Annette Goyne
Jay	3. George Olio
1. _____	Westfield
2. _____	1. Jacques Couture
Lowell	2. _____
1. John Sorrell	Troy
2. Mark Higley	1. _____
	2. _____

Committee volunteers to help with development of outreach materials

Shana circulated a sign up sheet to determine who might be interested in helping develop outreach materials for use getting the word out about the Wild and Scenic Study. She will be contacting Sylvia, Bethany, Ken, Anne, and Todd about getting together to develop these materials. Please let Shana know if you are interested in helping out with materials development but were not able to sign up at the last meeting.

Report on the 2009 FY budget (Shana)

Shana went over the budget that Cynthia has put together detailing the status of the W&S budget from April 2009 (congressional approval of the study) - January 2010. In summary, expenditures were primarily for Cynthia's time coordinating the study, overhead (such as rent, insurance, phone...), and the kickoff party last summer. The remaining budget in 2010 is projected to be used to cover the salary of the coordinator (Shana), set up of the office including rent, office supplies, and a computer, overhead (such as rent and phone), and outreach (such as the website, mailings, handouts...). More information can be requested from Cynthia or Shana.

Website and domain name updates (Rolf)

Shana introduced Rolf as the developer of the W&S website, and gave many thanks for his work on getting the website up and running. Rolf stressed that the website was at the beginning stages. Shana requests that you send her photos of the Rivers/study area that might be usable on the website and outreach materials (photo credit will be given). Please include information about where and when photos were taken. Also, please send any links that you suggest should be included on the W&S website. Bob suggested that it is important that we keep the website current because it is such a good communication resource. He asked that we consider allowing committee members to publish web content themselves (perhaps a blog or Wiki page?), in order to keep committee members involved, keep content accurate and up to date, and allow creativity. Todd suggested have a section (either on the website or in the future W&S newsletter) that highlights different committee members. Shana will look into how other non-profits manage their websites. For now - Rolf indicated he is the 'mechanic' that works for Shana/W&S. He has committed to being prompt with any website updates that we wish to make. Recommendations for the webpage can be directed to Shana. Please remember that the website is ever-evolving, and at the very beginning stages of its development.

Staci Pomeroy, River Resource Scientist, will share her aerial photos from a flyover of the watershed!

Thank you to Staci for showing us her fantastic PowerPoint of pictures she took during her flyover of the Missisquoi Main Stem. Next meeting she has volunteered to put together a similar PowerPoint for the Trout River.

Ideas for potentially Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORVs)

- Brief overview by Jim MacCartney of ORVs
Jim gave us an overview of what the NPS defines as outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife habitat, historic, cultural or other important values. We can make an argument that the ORVs that we identify are nationally, regionally, or locally remarkable. Our ORVs need to be defensible when we present our findings to congress (if we wish to move forward with designation). They must be tied to the rivers by presently or historically: being dependent upon the rivers, being expressed by the rivers, and/or being close to the rivers (not too far afield). To be designated as W&S rivers, at least one ORV needs to be identified. Because we are a partnership W&S study, it is up to us, the study committee, to identify these ORVs, and identify other resources that will help us discover what the ORVs are for our rivers. It is our goal to identify local folks who may come to meetings to discuss their area of expertise and help us identify ORVs.
- Committee member suggestions of groups to invite to explore ORVs
We began to generate a list of possible ORVs. Please submit recommendations for ORVs to Shana under the following categories: recreational, scenic (aesthetic), historic/cultural, geologic, natural resource (fish and wildlife or their habitat), or other. Please also indicate suggestions you may have for people/groups to invite to explore ORV - who will be able to help us identify them? At the next meeting we will identify committee members who are interested in diving more deeply into identifying ORVs in each of these categories.

Other

Thank you to Anne for bringing us the National Geographic Wild and Scenic books she found at Ocean Joblots. Books were dispersed to folks to put in Town offices. Shane has one at the W&S office. MARK YOUR CALENDARS - MRBA is having a cleanup on the Upper Missisquoi River (a river float/clean up) on Saturday, June 19th. All are encouraged to attend, and to come to the BBQ following at Anne's.

Jeff Parsons, from Arrowwood Environmental, updated the committee on the fact that they are applying for a grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program to conduct wetlands inventory in the Upper Missisquoi watershed. MRBA will be the non-profit with whom Arrowwood will submit the grant proposal. The goal is to map wildlife habitat and wetlands within a ½ mile corridor of the river. Arrowwood has ample experience with such studies; a similar study was completed in Enosburg. This study will be completed using remote imagery, and in the field where the river is accessible by road. Proposals are due by Monday, March 1st. Jeff Parsons and Dori Barton can be contacted at the following website <http://www.arrowwoodvt.com/pages/contact.html>

Agenda items for our next meeting

- Nominations and elections of officers
- Sub-committee formation to dive more deeply into identifying ORVs in each of the categories
- Staci- Trout River flyover pictures
- Discussion about moving the W&S meetings from the 3rd Thursday to the 2nd or 4th Thursday of each month, as per request from committee members, and thus finalizing when the meetings will be.

Scheduling upcoming meeting - date, time, place

The next meeting will be on March 18th at 7pm in Westfield (tentative).