

Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic River Study Advisory Committee  
Minutes  
Thursday, March 18, 2010, 7pm  
Westfield Community Center  
Westfield, VT 05874

Attendees: Rolf Anderson, Sue Brassett, Jayne and Jonathan Chase, Jennifer Hersey Cleveland, Jacques Couture, Edward G. Ellis, Jamie Fosburgh, Mark Higley, Sylvia Jensen, Bob Johnson, Todd Lantery, Dianne Laplante, John Little, Mike Manahan, Roland Mayhew, Anne and R. Bruce McKay, Staci Pomeroy, Dexter Randall, Bethany Remmers, David Sanders, Cynthia Scott, Shana Stewart.

Welcome & Introductions

Updates from Town Meetings

- Shana distributed a copy of the letters that went out.
- There was discussion on whether a municipal representative should be a Town resident. The Chases are landowners in Troy but residents of Derby; they would be willing to be the Troy representatives. M. Higley advised that J. Sorrell will no longer serve as Lowell's rep due to health reasons.
- Dianne Laplante was welcomed as a new appointee from the Town of Westfield

Report from the Nominating Committee

- Nominating Committee update  
Jacques Couture volunteered to be Chair; Todd Lantery volunteered to be Vice Chair; Jayne Chase volunteered to be Treasurer; and Mike Manahan volunteered to be Secretary (take meeting minutes). All were elected in a unanimous vote. (Note: Ken Secor was also considered for the Vice Chair position. Since the Nominating Committee stated that they thought that Ken volunteered primarily to be sure there was a nominee for Vice Chair, and Todd Lantery was present and willing to take on the job, Todd was voted in. Thank you, Ken)
- Committee Decision Making  
The Steering Committee is an information exchange body. We will gather information about the rivers, and get that information back out to our towns and local community. Questions were discussed such as: Should a municipal rep's decision on an issue reflect his/her personal opinion or that of the Town he/she represents? Decision making based on consensus or majority vote will be at the Chair's discretion. It was discussed that appointees should be mindful to represent their towns and not their individual opinions.

Shana read the following about decision making:

"Other Wild and Scenic Study Committees have been run by consensus, so it follows that the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Study will also be run by consensus. This can be indicated by a show of hands or an audible 'yes' or 'aye' to show support if necessary.

If the Chair believes it is necessary, they can call for a vote and each town (Berkshire, Town of Enosburgh, Village of Enosburg Falls, Jay, Lowell, Montgomery, Village of North Troy, Richford, Westfield, and the Town of Troy) and each partner entity represented (National Park Service, Missisquoi River Basin Association, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, VT Agency of Ag, VT DEC, VT Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, and VT Traditions Coalition) will get one vote. Though I believe it is the NPS policy to typically abstain, and leave the voting to the local community. The majority of votes will carry the decision."

- Future Agendas  
S. Jensen suggested that future agendas allot time for 'Public Comment'.

Updates from Shana

- Outreach materials  
There will be a meeting at 9 am on Thursday, March 25 at the office in East Berkshire to discuss outreach materials.

- Website  
Links to other websites were suggested: every town in the study area, the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, the W&S Rivers Act, other W&S river studies. It was suggested that tributary maps be included on our website.
- We are looking for photos from you! Please email Shana any photos that you have that you are willing to let us use for outreach materials and the website. Please include names of anyone in the photos, name of who took the photo, and location (at least Town, but as specific as possible).

#### Other Updates

- LCBP Wildlife Habitat Protection and Improvement Grant  
C. Scott advised that MRBA has partnered with Arrowwood Environmental in a \$10,000 proposal to inventory wetlands and wildlife habitat in the W&S study area. Awards will be announced in mid-April. The Study Committee can use the information gathered on wetlands and wildlife habitats as we choose.
- Missisquoi Bay Basin Plan  
B. Remmers advised that NRPC has received a grant to finish the Missisquoi Basin plan. This will involve editing the draft plan developed in 2008, adding additional information and holding public meetings. The work will take place over 10 months from signing of their contract with LCBP, the funder. This plan would give the study committee great information on the rivers, especially the quality of the waters.
- Jennifer Hersey Cleveland joined us from the Newport Daily Express Newspaper attended and wrote the following article:  
<http://www.newportvermontdailyexpress.com/content/view/171001/27/>
- John Little gave a brief overview of how he and other MRBA members got the Wild and Scenic Study rolling and through Congress. The full story can be found on their website at:  
<http://www.troutrivernetwork.org/mrba/wild+scenic.html>  
The legislation that passed allowed the Study Committee to have access to NPS funds to conduct the study.  
John and Cynthia Scott also read MRBA's mission statement, and discussed their work as a watershed organization. Their mission and activities can be found on their website at:  
<http://www.troutrivernetwork.org/mrba/index.html>

#### Trout River Photos

- S. Pomeroy showed aerial photos of the Trout River taken during a flyover last year.

#### Time Line

- Shana proposed the following study timeline:
  - Jan. – Aug. 2010, Identify ORV's and define the study area
  - Sept. 2010 – Dec. 2011, research ORV's and obtain local knowledge
  - 2012, develop management plan and hold public meetings on findings

#### Budget

- Jamie advised that \$50,000 has been approved to get the study started and was available in Sept. 2009. NPS has asked for \$60,000 more for this summer, and hopes to get \$75,000 in 2011. If all goes well, there will be a total of \$250,000 available over the study period. Some of that funding will cover mapping needs to be provided by the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC).
- The W&S study committee will decide on how to spend the funds. MRBA has the contract with NPS and will write the checks. C. Scott, J. Chase, and S. Stewart will coordinate about funds and expenditures.

### Topics for Future Meetings

- The following were suggested as items to be covered at future steering committee meetings:
  - River information to increase committee's knowledge and education
  - Type of issues that might interfere or be a conflict of interest
  - Under whose auspices do rivers fall?
  - USDA/CREP projects
  - How does W&S designation affect the old mill in Montgomery Center?
  - The moratorium on hydro projects upon authorization of the study
  - Benefits that could result from designation
  - Overview of the W&S Rivers Act
  - Basic river hydrology
  - Cultural history of the Missisquoi River
  - Site visit to Taft Brook Falls (Dianne can get landowner permission), and Chase's project site
  - Impact of tourism on indigenous plants, protocol on good practices
  - How would designation affect/benefit the area (invite Chamber of Commerce), identify potential economic return. Gray Gables in Richford is busy with bicyclists and paddlers in summer but not in winter with skiers.

### Upcoming meeting - date, time, place

The next meeting will be on April 15 at 7pm at Enosburgh High School, Dickensen Avenue, Enosburgh Falls.

It was decided that future meetings will continue to be scheduled on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month.

Note taker: Cynthia Scott