

Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild & Scenic Study Committee
Studying the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers
FY10 Accomplishments – Completed 01-20-11

Background

- March 3, 2009 – Wild and scenic study authorized (Public Law 111-11).
- September 17, 2009 – Wild and scenic study committee formed, first meeting held.
- Ten communities: Representatives from the 9/10 communities are part of our study committee: Berkshire (has one empty seat), Enosburg, Enosburg Falls, Jay (no official appointees), Lowell, Montgomery, North Troy, Richford, Troy, and Westfield. Meetings rotate between the 10 towns.
- Major partners: Missisquoi River Basin Association, VT Agency of Natural Resources, local municipalities, riverfront landowners.
 - Representatives from community groups represented on our committee include:
Missisquoi River Basin Association: John Little; National Park Service: Jamie Fosburgh; Jim MacCartney; Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC): Catherine Dimitruk; Bethany Remmers; VT Agency of Agriculture: Sylvia Jensen; VT Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) - Rick Hopkins (or Cathy Kashanski) and Staci Pomeroy; VT Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs: Bill Leipold; VT Traditions Coalition: Robert Qua
- Segments under consideration: 25 miles of the upper Missisquoi in Orleans County, VT including Troy, Westfield, Jay and Lowell; 25 miles of the upper Missisquoi in Franklin County, VT including Enosburg, Berkshire and Richford; and 20 miles of the Trout River in Franklin County, including Berkshire and Montgomery.

Organization and Administration

- Developed a draft work plan in October 2009.
- Hired a Study Coordinator (Shana Stewart) in January 2010.
- Elected a slate of officers in March 2010 (Chair – Jacques Couture, Vice Chair – Todd Lantery, Treasurer – Jayne Chase 2010, Dianne Laplante 2011, and Secretary – Mike Manahan).
- Approved decision-making procedures in March 2010.
- Approved a Study Committee logo in May 2010.
- Adopted a Mission Statement in July 2010.
- Adopted a working budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year (October through September), and the 2010-2011 fiscal year.
- Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers received support from Bernie Sanders, which increases the likelihood of future funding.
- Conduct monthly Study Committee meetings in the 10 towns in the study area.

Resource Review

- *Geography* – Presentation by Stacy Pomeroy of VT Department of Environmental Conservation showing aerial photos of the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers.
 - *Serpentine outcrops to be explored in 2011*
- *Recreation* – Presentation by Walter Opurzynski on the Northern Forest Canoe Trail which includes part of the Missisquoi River (05-13-10).
 - Presentation by Rich Langdon (ANR) and Bernie Pientka (Fish and Wildlife) on stocked and natural fisheries in the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers (11-18-10).
- *Natural Resources*
 - *Wildlife* – Presentation by Corrie Miller and Bob Hawk on wildlife habitat connectivity and the Staying Connected Project (07-15-10).
 - John Little and Ken Secor presented their photographs of wildlife along the Missisquoi (April 2010 paddle).

- *Water* – The NRPC is completing the Missisquoi Basin Plan which remains in draft form. This document will be available for use in 2011, and will help inform our management plan.
 - Shana attended the UVM Lake Champlain Conference (June 8, 2010) to gain the latest scientific information about streams, and discuss the Wild and Scenic Study with interested parties (04-19-10).
 - Attended MRBA's meeting which featured Mike Winslow discussing his book about Lake Champlain and its tributaries.
 - Shana attended the New England Rivers Group gathering organized by the NPS.
 - Reviewed H462 and H763, bills enacted into Law in 2010. H462 requires a person to obtain a permit from the agency of natural resources prior to installing or building a commercial dock or pier that encroaches on the boatable tributaries of Lake Champlain (effective 7-1-2010). H763 This act amends multiple provisions of state law regarding river corridor management planning, water quality, agricultural water quality, and stream alteration permits (effective 2010-2011).
 - Staci Pomeroy from the VT ANR set up the flume river model to demonstrate river dynamics at our 10-21-10 meeting.
 - Dori Barton, from Arrowwood Environmental, presented 10-21-10 the preliminary findings from their geomorphic assessment conducted on the Missisquoi this summer.
 - Attended the Celebrate Lake Champlain event on 6-24-10 to celebrate the lake and make connections.
 - Identify dams, and areas which are free-flowing using GIS mapping.
- *Agriculture* – Presentation by Laura DiPietro, VT Department of Agriculture on farm operations, Accepted Agricultural Practices Regulations, and Best Management Practices (08-19-10).
 - Shana attended the Farmer's Watershed Alliance's annual meeting where she talked about the W&S study, and learned about efforts local farmers are making to improve water quality (April 2010).
 - Discussed the new manure digester used on properties on Mud Creek (Missisquoi Tributary) used to produce electricity at our 10-21-10 meeting.
- *Cultural/Historical* – Presentation 09-16-10 by Bobby Farlice-Rubio on Native American occupation of the Missisquoi and Trout River valleys (advertisement at local historical societies).
 - Janice Geraw, from the Enosburg Historical Society, gave a brief presentation at our April 15, 2010 meeting, and provided resources for future study.
 - Began combing archives at the VT Division for Historic Preservation in Montpelier.
- *Wild and Scenic* – Joyce Kennedy, the coordinator of the Upper Farmington and Salmon Brook W&S Study gave a presentation on their study activities to date (01-21-10).
 - Attended the Wild and Scenic Film Festival in Burlington on 10-28-10
- *Mapping*
 - Base maps which included town boundaries, dams, waterways, roads, and other major landmarks were developed for committee use.
 - Maps with basic information for each of the resources areas (geology, wildlife, waterways, RTE species, cultural, etc. were created and will continue to be updated and revised in 2011
- *ORVs* – The information on the above resources will be utilized in 2011 to identify the Outstanding Resources that the Committee and the communities feel exist within the Study Area.
- *Research* – Continue to review various publications on resources in the watershed (For Example: Enosburgh Vermont Historical Society Publication; Waterfalls, Cascades and Gorges of VT; Guide to Evaluating Outstanding Rivers and Streams of VT; VT Rivers Study; etc.).

Outreach and Education

Materials and Publications

- The Outreach Committee developed a flyer for the Town Meetings, a postcard, and our first newsletter.
- Developed and maintain a Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee website.
- Circulated a poster and flyer for presentation at Town Meetings in March 2010.
- Article published in the Newport Daily Express 03-22-10 about the study and Staci's presentation of aerial photos.
- Update on the Wild and Scenic study in MRBA's newsletters in 2010.
- Published an article (by John Little) on the Wild and Scenic Study in the 'Water Matters' section of the County Courier on May 20, 2010.
- Printed informational postcards for use at outreach events in the Study area in June 2010.
- Distributed the first Study Committee newsletter to our mailing list in June 2010, additionally, we provided copies of the newsletter in town clerk's offices or post offices in each of the 10 towns.
- Article included in the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers News Summer 2010 on hydroelectricity and our W&S study.
- Published an article (by Shana) on the Wild and Scenic Study in the 'Water Matters' section of the County Courier on September 23, 2010.
- Article published following our fisheries meeting in November in the Orleans County Record (November 2010).
- Developed a PowerPoint presentation with basic info about the Wild and Scenic River System and the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Study for presentation to local community groups (Pilot presentation at a Cold Hollow to Canada monthly meeting 06-21-10).
- Published an article about the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Study in the VT Agency of Natural Resources *Out of the Blue* summer newsletter.

Meetings and Events

- Attended the Farmer's Watershed Alliance in April 2010.
- Hosted a paddle on the Missisquoi River from Richford to East Berkshire on June 26, 2010.
- Advertised and participated in MRBA's June 19, 2010 Missisquoi River cleanup.
- Represented at the Newport Aquafest June 24, 2010.
- Distributed material at the Newport Aquafest in July 2010.
- Manned a booth at the Jay Summer Fest on August 14, 2010.
- Attended the River Walk Last Fling of Summer on August 28, 2010.
- Participated at the Missisquoi River Basin Association's Riverfest on August 28, 2010.
- Conducted our first Wild and Scenic Photo Contest.
- Hosted a paddle on the Missisquoi River from East Berkshire to Enosburg Falls on September 18, 2010.
- Joined the North Country Chamber of Commerce in June 2010.
- Represented at the April Environmental Literacy meeting by Anne McKay.
- Shana and Mike Manahan attended the River Rally in Utah to connect with other Wild and Scenic groups, and learn about national river resources and issues (May 2010).
- Began to compile a comprehensive mailing list for river-front land owners in the study area.

Project Review

- Tracked activity, reports and correspondence related to the Troy Hydroelectric Project's application for FERC exemption.

Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild & Scenic Study Committee
Studying the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers
FY11 (October 2010 through August 2011) Accomplishments – Last Updated 08-18-11

Background

- March 3, 2009 – Wild and scenic study authorized (Public Law 111-11).
- September 17, 2009 – Wild and scenic study committee formed, first meeting held.
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- Major partners: Missisquoi River Basin Association, VT Agency of Natural Resources, local municipalities, riverfront landowners.
 - Representatives from community groups represented on our committee include:
Missisquoi River Basin Association: John Little; National Park Service: Jamie Fosburgh; Jim MacCartney; Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC): Catherine Dimitruk; Bethany Remmers; VT Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets (VAAFM): Sylvia Jensen; VT Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) - Rick Hopkins (or Cathy Kashanski) and Staci Pomeroy; VT Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs: Bill Leipold; VT Traditions Coalition: Robert Qua
- Segments under consideration: 25 miles of the upper Missisquoi in Orleans County, VT including Troy, Westfield, Jay and Lowell; 25 miles of the upper Missisquoi in Franklin County, VT including Enosburg, Berkshire and Richford; and 20 miles of the Trout River in Franklin County, including Berkshire and Montgomery. The Study also includes tributaries.

Organization and Administration

- Developed a updated draft work plan and study timeline in January 2011 and July 2011.
- Shana Stewart Deeds remains Study Coordinator.
- Study conducted to survey Committee Members about the direction and management of our study.
- Officers: Chair – Jacques Couture, Vice Chair – Todd Lantery, Treasurer – Dianne Laplante
Secretary – Mike Manahan.
- Adopted a working budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year (October through September).
- Working on the budget through March 2013.
- Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers received support from Bernie Sanders, which increases the likelihood of future funding.
- Conduct monthly Study Committee meetings in the 10 towns in the study area.

The following is a partial list of the accomplishments of the Study Committee in FY11.

Resource Review

- *Geology* – Presentation by Barry Doolan and Stephen Wright from the University of Vermont on the bedrock and surficial geology of the study area (04-21-11).
- *Recreation* – Presentation by Rich Langdon (ANR) and Bernie Pientka (Fish and Wildlife) on stocked and natural fisheries in the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers (11-18-10).
- *Natural Resources*
 - *Wildlife* – Sent out the information for Staying Connected's wildlife sightings map to Committee members.
 - *Water* –
 - Staci Pomeroy from the VT ANR set up the flume river model to demonstrate river dynamics at our 10-21-10 meeting.
 - Dori Barton, from Arrowwood Environmental, presented 10-21-10 the preliminary findings from their geomorphic assessment conducted on the Missisquoi this summer. She will present her final results at a future time.
- *Agriculture* – Presentation by Ben Gabos, VT Department of Agriculture on Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program - CREP (05-12-11).

- Presentation by Russ Ford – graduate student at the University of Vermont – on agricultural phosphorus in Franklin County and the Missisquoi watershed.
- *Cultural/Historical* –
 - Continued combing archives at the VT Division for Historic Preservation in Montpelier, presented information to our Committee.
 - Asked for participation from each of the town’s historical societies. Gave them questions prepared by our Committee so that they could provide us with information.
 - Hosted a potluck at the Westfield Community Center prior to our July 21st meeting where community members were invited to attend and discuss their knowledge of the river’s history.
- *Wild and Scenic* – Jamie Fosburgh and Jim MacCartney from the National Park Service discussed Section 7 Review on 1-20-11 and Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) on 02-17-11.
- *ORVs* – Continued to identify the Outstanding Resources that the Committee and the communities feel exist within the Study Area. Working with NRPC to get them mapped.
- *Research*
 - Continue to review various publications on resources in the watershed (For Example: Historical Society Publications; VT Rivers Study; etc.).
 - Collected information about protections including town plans and zoning.

Outreach and Education

Materials and Publications

- The Outreach Committee developed a flyer for the Town Meetings which went into as many reports as possible, and copies were taken to town meetings in March 2011.
- Our second newsletter was published, sent to our mailing list, and distributed to locations in each town (such as town clerk’s offices, post offices, or stores).
- Completed a mailing list for all riverfront land owners in the Study Area.
- Our newsletter was sent to all riverfront land owners in each of the 10 towns.
- Maintained the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee website.
- Developed a blog for outreach with included FAQs about Wild and Scenic, ORVs, and where people can ask their own questions.
- Created surveys on SurveyMonkey about Wild and Scenic Designation. The survey link was provided in the Town Meeting letters, in our newsletter and on our website.
- Approached the Wild and Scenic Film Festival in order to see if there could be a film screening event in our Study Area. It was too late for this year, perhaps next.
- Included information about our study in the Northern Forest Canoe Trail’s email blast 08-03-11.
- Looked into putting placemats in local restaurants for outreach. Designed with the help of Emily at the NRPC.
- Published an article in the ‘Water Matters’ section of the County Courier on 03-31-11 on amphibians, and on 07-28-11 advertising Wild and Scenic and our latest paddle.
- Published an article in the Newport Daily News on the Wild and Scenic Study and advertised our upcoming Study Committee Meeting in Westfield on the river history of Orleans County.
- Submitted an article to the Barton Chronicle about our paddle on July 31st.
- Posted a blurb about the study on The Champlain Wave website www.champlainwave.org
- PowerPoint presentation with basic info about the Wild and Scenic River System and the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Study for presentation to local community groups.
 - Shana presented to the Richmond Conservation Commission 05-04-11 (Enosburgh and Montgomery Conservation Commissions were also invited).
 - Shana presented to the Enosburgh Conservation Commission 06-27-11.
 - Cynthia presented to the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail Commission on 07-11-11.
 - Shana presented to the Westfield Selectboard on 08-08-11.
 - Shana presented to the Jay Selectboard (also included members of their Land Trust and Planning Commission) on 08-15-11.
- Researched effects of designation, and passed along an informational ‘Wild and Scenic and business’ video to our mailing list, and placed on our website.
- NEKTV is airing the July 21st Study Committee meeting and potluck regarding the history of the Missisquoi in Orleans county and Shana’s presentation to the Westfield Selectboard.

- Dianne Laplante is working with NEKTV equipment to work on a video for Wild and Scenic.
- Our website is linked to several other websites including towns such as Jay and Richford.
- Contacted VPR and Candace Page about getting an update on VPR as a follow up to the stories they aired 09-12-08 through 08-03-09. Candace said she would follow up after her vacation. I also asked VPR to post our meeting information on their VPR Public Post page.

Outreach to Organizations

- Wild and Scenic information delivered to the Northern Forest Canoe Trail's mailing list in their email blast in the summer of 2011.
- Requested that our information be included on the Lake Champlain Basin Program's list of watershed groups.
- Provided our information to Lake Champlain International and MACA.
- Assisted MRBA in presenting their water quality monitoring data.
- Provided our mailing list with activities in the area including MRBA's river clean up near Swanton, NFCT's work day in Richmond, MACA's river cleanup, and Montgomery Conservation Commission's efforts to manage Japanese knotweed.
- The Montgomery Library has been contacted to display our Wild and Scenic informational display. The hope is to rotate the display through the libraries in the towns.

Meetings and Events

- Hosted a paddle on the Missisquoi River from Lowell past the Monastery to Loop Road in Westfield, June 4, 2011.
- Hosted a paddle on the Missisquoi River from Loop Road in Westfield to the Chase dam in Troy, July 31, 2011.
- Manned a booth at the Jay Summer Fest on August 14, 2010.
- Will participate in the Missisquoi River Basin Association's Riverfest on August 28, 2010.
- Conducted our second Wild and Scenic Photo Contest.
- Renewed our membership and distributed materials to the North Country Chamber of Commerce in June 2011, updated our information on their website.
- Efforts are being made to organize meetings on dams/hydro and DOT projects.

Project Review

- Tracked activity, reports and correspondence related to the Troy Hydroelectric Project's application for FERC exemption.
- Tracked activity reports and correspondence related to the North Troy Hydroelectric Project's efforts to resume power production.
- Had an officers meeting 04-12-11 with Green Mountain Power's and their Water Quality Consultant, Jeffrey Nelson from VHB.
- Followed up our officers meeting with discussion at our May 12, 2011 Study Committee Meeting.
- Provided comments for the Army Corps of Engineers permitting for the Kingdom Community Wind project in Lowell on July 3, 2011.
- Spoke with Geoffrey Goll of Princeton Hydro regarding his inquiries into the Kingdom Community Wind project in Lowell.
- Continued to track activity, reports and correspondence related to the Kingdom Community Wind project.

Upcoming Priorities

- Continue community outreach, including outreach presentation in all towns/villages and articles or advertisements in local newspapers.
- Work on organizing an agricultural workshop, get a write-up in AgReview.
- Have Study Committee meetings on topics such as dams/hydro, DOT/VTrans, designation boundaries, public access points, etc.
- Complete ORV mapping.
- Pull together information into the draft management plan.

Fall 2011 Outreach

These are some of the outreach activities we've accomplished since our summer paddles and newsletters went out...

- We put informational packets in doctor and dentist offices
- We put placements at local restaurants
- NEKTV is airing an outreach powerpoint and some of our committee meetings
- Heather McKeown worked with the Sampietro's and Todd to film the Montgomery Wild and Scenic video
- Our display has been in the Montgomery and Richford libraries and is next headed to Enosburgh (I am working on a display for each of the towns)
- We had tables at the Richford Farmer's market, Jay summerfest and MRBA's riverfest
- I presented to the Richford and Enosburgh Conservation Commissions and Jay and Westfield Selectboards
- Cynthia presented to the Rail Trail Council
- Bethany presented to the NRPC Board
- Rick Hopkins updated folks at ANR about our progress using our power point
- Our meetings have been in the paper, including the article after the dam/hydro meeting in the Caledonia Record written by Robin Smith

Upcoming

- John is going to present for the Lake Champlain International group in January
- I have been asked to speak to the Sierra Club and NVDA in December.
- We are going to set up the films fests for after Town Meeting.
- We are putting the page in the Town Reports.
- We are going to have people at Town Meeting again.
- I am working on an article for AgReview which will give a Save the Date for the agricultural event we discussed having with Ben Gabos.
- Jim Starr and I are working on a presentation to Troy selectboard and N. Troy Village trustees.
- Heather McKeown has volunteered to film in more towns in the spring.

Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild & Scenic Study Committee
Studying the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers
FY12 (Sept. 2011 through Sept. 2012) Accomplishments – Last Updated 08-18-11

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Organization and Administration

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- Shana Stewart Deeds remains Study Coordinator.
- Officers: Chair – Jacques Couture, Vice Chair – Todd Lantery, Treasurer – Dianne Laplante Secretary – Mike Manahan.
- Adopted a working budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year (October through September).
- Working on the budget through March 2013.
- Conduct monthly Study Committee meetings in the 10 towns in the study area.

Resource Review

- *Geology* –
- *Recreation* –
- *Natural Resources*
 - *Wildlife* –
 - *Water* –
 - Dori Barton, from Arrowwood Environmental, presented 10-21-10 the final findings from their geomorphic assessment part of the Missisquoi.
- *Agriculture* –
- *Cultural/Historical* –
 - Finished combing archives at the VT Division for Historic Preservation in Montpelier, presented information to our Committee.
 - Hosted a potluck
- *Wild and Scenic* – Jamie Fosburgh and Jim MacCartney from the National Park Service and Brian Fitzgerald discussed Wild and Scenic effects on dams and hydro on 9-15-11.
- *Mapping*
- *ORVs* – Continued to identify the Outstanding Resources that the Committee and the communities feel exist within the Study Area. Mapped
- *Research*

- Management plan

Outreach and Education

Materials and Publications

- The Outreach Committee developed a flyer for the Town Meetings which went into as many reports as possible, and copies were taken to town meetings in March 2011.
- Our **second** newsletter was published, sent to our mailing list, and distributed to locations in each town (such as town clerk's offices, post offices, or stores).
- Completed a mailing list for all riverfront land owners in the Study Area.
- Our newsletter was sent to all riverfront land owners in each of the 10 towns.
- Maintained the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic Committee website.
- Developed a **facebook page**
- Put placemats in local restaurants for outreach.
- Each town received a full-sized poster about the study to be displayed in heavy traffic areas.
- A W&S poster display rotated between libraries in each of the towns/villages with outreach materials.
- Outreach materials were distributed at each town meeting. Committee members were on hand to answer questions. Some, as in Westfield, were able to talk briefly or in Lowell were able to answer questions from community members.
- **Article published**
- **Update on the Wild and Scenic study in MRBA's newsletters in 2010. Did this happen 2011?**
- Published an article in the 'Water Matters' section of the County Courier
- Published an article in the Newport Daily News
- Posted a blurb about the study on The Champlain Wave website www.champlainwave.org
- **Article included in the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers News.**
- PowerPoint presentation with basic info about the Wild and Scenic River System and the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Study for presentation to local community groups.
 - Shana presented to
- Researched effects of designation, and passed along that information to our mailing list, and placed on our website.
- NEKTV is airing
- **Basin Plan due for comment in the fall**
- **Our website is linked to several other websites**
- Contacted VPR and Candace Page
- I also asked VPR to post our meeting information on their VPR Public Post page.

Outreach to Organizations

- Provided our information to Lake Champlain International and MACA.
- Assisted MRBA in presenting their water quality monitoring data.
- Provided our mailing list with activities in the area including NFCT's work day in Richmond, and MACA's river cleanup.
- **Asked for participation from each of the town's historical societies. Gave them questions prepared by our Committee so that they could provide us with information.**
- **Potluck**

Meetings and Events

- Hosted a paddle
- Manned a booth
- Will participate in the Missisquoi River Basin Association's Riverfest on August 28, 2010.
- Conducted our **second** Wild and Scenic Photo Contest.
- Renewed our membership and distributed materials to the North Country Chamber of Commerce in **June 2011**, updated our information on their website.

Project Review

- Tracked activity, reports and correspondence related to the Troy Hydroelectric Project's application for FERC exemption.
- North Troy
- Provided comments for the Army Corps
- Continued to track activity, reports and correspondence related to the Kingdom Community Wind project.