**VOREC Steering Committee Meeting**

May 30, 2018 at Agency of Natural Resources Offices, Montpelier, VT

**Attendees:** Wendy Knight, Mike Snyder, Tom Stuessy, Bill Supple, Drew Simmons, Hal Ellms, Jeanne Gervais, Mike DeBonis, Danny Hale (for Cindy Locke), Amy Kelsey (phone), Trey Martin (phone), Craig Whipple, Jessica Savage, Caroline Zeilenga, Tim Tierney

**Mike S: Introductions and Welcome**

**Review April Minutes**

Drew motion to approve, Tom second. Minutes approved.

**Chair Update**

Mike S: Legislative session finished. Legislative updates involving outdoor recreation, including S.276, H.904, H.132.

Wendy: S.105 bill passed, but was vetoed by Governor. Economic development marketing money and Innovation Fund were included in budget.

Jessica: FPR general recreation updates: Great Outdoor Month events, including Governor’s press event; hiring a third field recreation specialist; Outdoor Recreation Friendly Communities Program group work; RTP grants to communities and non-profits; FPR/Velomont/VT Huts working group; all state parks now open.

Mike S: Steering committee update on Amy and Bill, who have both changed jobs. With permission from Governor’s office and out of desire for continued progress, both staying on committee. Mike D switching roles with Amy: Mike is now VTGC non-motorized representative, Amy is in general recreation position.

**Member Updates**

Bill: Outdoor Recreation Friendly Communities Program group well-formed and has already done substantial work.

Jessica: Update on Congressman Welch outdoor recreation event.

Craig: Working with Marc on gear loaner program, will be at two sites at each of five state parks.

Discussion of gear loaner program: how news is being shared and how program is being promoted.

Jeanne: Island Pond ATV trails opened this week. Plans to build a bridge, and open town’s streets to ATVs.

Discussion of buy-in from local communities, Vermont Council on Rural Development community visits and outdoor recreation as a top priority for many towns.

Drew: Recreation signage expanding in Mad River Valley, work that VOREC could connect with, movement for outdoor recreation projects in Randolph.

Tom: VOICe recently added new businesses as members.

Amy: Happy to continue to serve on steering committee. Work is now around research and planning for community development and rural communities. Hoping to be a resource and find new related resources.

Trey: Doing part-time work at Vermont Law School on programs providing support to business startups—outdoor recreation and rural ventures will be features in first year of programs. Participated on Confluence stewardship drafting group, finalized three main points.

Discussion of shared understanding of stewardship among different states involved in Confluence.

**VOBA Update**

Drew: Meetings upcoming, draft website live, more work in progress.

Bill: Large group, promising structure, advanced already.

Mike S: Related update: One of VOREC’s recommendations was to work with VEDA to pursue favorable lending for outdoor recreation. Met with VEDA representatives, interested in promoting this opportunity. Mike would like to discuss promotional plan with VOBA members to bring a proposal to VEDA.

Drew: Will connect VOBA funding working group with Mike.

**Stewardship and Resources Action Planning**

Mike S: Goal is to determine what is needed to address funding for stewardship, and steps for each of the recommendations related to stewardship. First, let’s recognize stewardship is foundational to VOREC’s work, and identify our collective definition.

Discussion around the room of what stewardship means to each member and how it fits in the pillars of VOREC’s recommendations, with goal of reaching consensus on what VOREC’s definition of stewardship is, what it includes, what is needed to accomplish it, and how it will be achieved.

Discussion of what stewardship looks like for VOREC: volunteers, funding, leadership, education, outreach.

Jessica breaks down top recommendations related to stewardship on posters around room. Asks group to work in pairs to identify next steps for each recommendation.

Discussion of each recommendation, steering committee members’ suggestions for next steps.

**Summer Meeting Dates and Locations**

Discussion of upcoming meetings.

**Public Comment**

No public comment, no public in attendance.

**New Business**

Drew: Confluence update, opportunities to promote Vermont as part of Confluence.

Discussion of Confluence summit, objectives of Confluence, and how to promote Vermont.

No other new business, meeting adjourned.