

VPC Board Meeting Minutes
1/13/2014 at the Bluestone in Waterbury

Present: Hugh Pritchard, Paul Carlile, John Atherton, Tony Shaw, Ben Schott, Chris Weed, Alden Bird, Ryan McCall, Mike Mainer

- Calendar stuff
 - Spring potluck: March 23rd or 30th. Tony usually takes care of this
 - Paul & Hugh will send out postcards
 - AJ will get a speaker
 - a new Bow & Stern will probably be out
 - WV trip: March 15th - 23rd, or thereabouts
 - Spring trip meeting: Will need to coordinate with Jim P - February 13th
 - NHL Race: April 5th, probably
- Finances (from Hugh)
 - We have about \$2500. Only 3-4 membership renewals have come in for 2014 so far.
 - Burlington pool sessions are \$650 total. Barre pool sessions are \$420. Thus, these will initially cut cash reserves by about half, but some of this will be made up by pool session fees and new memberships.
 - Hugh & Tony should look at PopMoney instead of PayPal, since it doesn't take 3% off.
 - The pool session cost is \$10 VPC membership (if not already a member) + \$10 pool session fee + \$5 ACA fee (if not already a member).
- Pool sessions
 - Burlington: Chris has the contract & insurance submitted, but UVM can't find the insurance certificate. It will need to be resubmitted by the 20th. There should be enough folks around Burlington to help with instruction, provide extra boats, etc. UVMKC may be of assistance.
 - Barre: Ryan managed to get a good rate (\$70/hour vs \$110/hour) from First In Fitness. Ryan and Alden should be able to handle instruction but might call in Burlington folks if needed.
- President's Letter (from Ryan)
 - Hope to have it out this week. Will include trip meeting, potluck, AW MEETING IN BURLINGTON!!!, NHL RACE!!!, trip leaders, novice clinic, DAM RELEASES!!! Will go to members as far back as 2010.

Intermission: Quinn tried to freewheel All-American Boof on the New Haven yesterday... turned out OK but was sketchy. Mike, in his duly authorized position as Secretary determined Bluestone's pizza to be pretty tasty. Safety Chairperson Ben recommends the Brooklyn Stout.

- NHL Race (from Ryan)
 - Already being organized by race committee (Ryan, Will Seegers, Ben Schott,

- Nick Gottlieb). UVM involvement is being reduced by John Abbot & Mark Moore.
 - Last year the race made about \$600 when all is said and done, which will be used to support this year's race. This year will be less expensive and rely more on racers for safety/logistical support.
 - Usually the VPC goes in for \$200-\$250, with any profit in excess of \$600 going back to the VPC. Paul made a motion that we do this again. Tony seconded it. It was unanimously approved (with Ben & Ryan recused).
- Releases (from Ryan)
 - Sheldon Springs:
 - Two releases this fall. Lots of fun and lots of fun carnage. Releases were 3000 cfs and 1200 cfs. Estimated minimum boatable flow is 600-800 cfs, with the higher levels being a bit more fun, but good all-around.
 - The hydrology is a bit tricky since neither Enel or Rock-Tenn can accurately measure diverted flows. It is also tricky since this is all run-of-river and we need natural flows to get a release. The goal is to get 6 releases at good levels, without being so miserly that we don't use up all 6 release days, within what can be operationally achieved by the power company, while still managing all this as favorably for boaters as possible.
 - It would be great to have some way of determining flows in the diverted reach for natural spill-over events.
 - Green
 - Originally planning on having everything all set for 2015. All the various players have submitted comments and there were no major objections to WW releases.
 - *But...* MWL is now less interested in keeping the Green River dam... so it may be sold to another company, or back to the State of VT. There are some technical issues with the dam, some of which have prevented MWL from providing releases thus far. It is possible (but not likely) that the dam will be removed.
 - Ryan recommends signing up for FERC notifications if you want to stay abreast of all this.
 - West
 - We are now down to a single day release, and not always at the best flows. The ACOE and State of VT have not been helpful.
 - The current WW organizations involved have not been assertive in advocating for releases. It is probably time for the VPC to take more of a stance/be more involved. Mark has some interest in taking this on.
 - Ryan will let us know what we need to do. Maybe get the Gov in a raft?
 - Transcanada dams on the CT River
 - Up for relicensing. Bob Nasdor at AW is on it. This includes Sumners Falls (great spot... we should go there more often), and Bellows Falls. There is good potential for a WW park in Bellows Falls
 - The upper CT lakes do have scheduled drawdowns, and there is at least

one good section up there.

- Membership
 - The board needs to work on this more. If everyone gets at least 3 new members, Ryan will buy a round. Get friends involved, bring in trip leaders, etc. There are lots of consistent boaters that should be members (or be members again).
 - Ryan would like to make a membership chair position. This person would be responsible for drumming up hype, social networking, etc... ideally someone media-savvy, well-connected, etc... Like Nick Gottlieb.
 - Tony noted that there used to be a VPC brochure available at local gear shops. Folks generally think this is out-of-date, but we need to train gear shop employees to promote the VPC.
 - Folks also should look at the website and figure out what improvements are needed.
- ACA stuff
 - Paul is up-to-date. Ben is working on L4 instructor certification, and will probably have it soon. Hopefully Ben can conduct SWR training later on. The VPC can provide scholarship assistance to folks interested in obtaining instructor certifications.
 - Paul would like Trip Leaders to keep better records of participant contact information, for emergency purposes and member retention. Trips have become very lackadaisical in this respect.
 - Would like to avoid “Standard Operating Procedures”, but “Guidelines for Trip Organizers” might work. Perhaps just keep this information on index cards?
- Next meeting
 - February 19th