

Attendees:

Carla Fowler – Tug Hill Commission
Taylor McKinney – Tug Hill Commission
Kristin Aucter – Lewis County Chamber of Commerce
Jonathan Miller – Lewis County Historical Society
Mickey Dietrich – Tug Hill Commission
Jennifer Harvill – Tug Hill Commission
Jesse Irwin – GYMO
Nichelle Swisher – Lewis County Soil & Water Conservation District
Sara F. Calero – Oneida County Tourism
Katie Malinowski – Tug Hill Commission

Introductions

Recap of FOBR history

Carla provided some background on the history of the Friend of the Black River group. The Black River Initiative (~2021) recommend a “friends” type ad hoc group to help implement ideas related to the Black River and help gain traction on projects, helping to identify resources, etc.

Agenda

1. Black River website (blackriverny.com)
 - a. There have been some issues with uploading the video by Jesse Irwin; it won't upload to the site. He is wondering if the video length/file size has something to do with it, and he will try to trim the length down and see if that helps.
 - b. Reminder to keep the “Friends” section of the website updated: meeting notes, future meeting dates, and contact info.
 - c. At the last meeting, we discussed adding some headwaters information.
 - d. The consultant maps (under “Home” page) need updating. 4 maps total: the overview of Black River, and then the focused Wild, Still, and White sections. Much of those files were lost to time, so Commission staff will likely restart from scratch on their own mapping software.
 - e. Ensure that the “big map” is expanded – the Black River is 125 miles, so we should be showing all of it outside of focused sections. Oneida County – North Lake expansion?
 - f. “White. Still. Wild.” Thoughts on order?
2. Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District
 - a. J. Miller had questions on the coordination regarding historical content for the website pages. He is working with Nichelle on inaccuracies, thoughts on page info and location, textual changes, etc.

- b. It was suggested that it would be helpful to have all the major and minor roads on the map to give people a real idea of what they look like, whether certain things can be seen from the river, etc.
 - c. J. Miller's rewrites are currently being done on a spreadsheet in word; he will continue to work with Nichelle on these items
 - d. Signage on the river that is also viewable from the river (e.g. town boundaries, locations of prominence)? Nichelle recalls working with the DEC on the signs for boat landings and is familiar with the process of adding signage to parts of the river. If the DEC owns the land, coordination for signage will have to go through them. LCSWD is working on some quotes from county highway for signs, and is researching more about signs on bridges, which may be a faster process than DEC.
3. River mapping
- a. Significant rain and high water levels has made river mapping unsafe. Mickey and Jesse are holding off until Fall to see if the water levels go down (they're nearing flood levels) and if it's feasible to do more mapping.
4. Riverfest Debrief
- a. Chief Carr's presentation – it was an extremely hot Riverfest opening, but it went well. The Florrissante were excellent hosts.
 - b. Compliments to Heidi for hosting the group of presenters, including spending time at Sackets beforehand. Opportunities for future engagements?
 - c. Side conversation: the oral history section of the presentation was very interesting. It's so important to find opportunities to record oral histories which might otherwise be lost to time.
5. Signage
- a. Covered above.
 - b. A Cultural Resource Assessment might be needed for the historical signage discussed?
6. Floating museum app
- a. Cuseum (cuseum.com)
 - b. Let's schedule a demonstration for the next meeting, if possible.
7. Logo for FOBR
- a. Carla has been trying her hand at the proposed logo in Canva.
 - b. Maybe T. McKinney can play around with it in Procreate app as time allows?

Next meeting: **October 17, 2023 @ 2pm**; Lewis County Extension Room