

2008 Meetings	Greatest Assets	Greatest Threats	Solutions
<p>Headwaters Winooski</p>	<p>Forested and naturally vegetated river corridors and flood plains Healthy place to work and play Recreation possibilities Low population density Water quality Riparian wetlands Numerous lakes for recreation Natural diversity and cultural heritage Hydro electric generating possibilities Aesthetics for recreation Connectivity to the river (physical and philosophical) In-stream habitat Mostly forested upper watershed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasives • Management of dams and water flow/hydro releases – unnatural fluctuations • Sediment/run off • Erosion/siltting • Loss of canopy vegetation, riparian buffers, riparian wetlands & floodplains • Development • Poor resource management (soils, forest & water) • Road management – dirt roads, improper sized culverts, lack of driveway standards, lack of fish passage & excessive salt/sand use • Conversion of open space to development • Unrestricted Development • Biomass reduction to the need for heating fuel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of WQ protective language in local zoning bylaws and ordinances/conversation easements • Needs to be a long-term and sustained effort – both regulatory and non-regulatory strategies need to be explored • Better Back Roads Program • Education • Demonstration Projects • Purchase of Easements • Further monitoring/Assessment of habitat downstream of Marshfield Reservoir • Work with NGOs, local grass-root groups & land owners to protect land adjacent to the river corridor • Stricter Regulations • Education of forestry practices, conservation practices, culvert sizes, stream buffer/canopy
<p>Stevens Branch</p>	<p>Current relative high quality status Micro Hydro Informed citizenry Access for recreation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disconnect to the Stevens and Jail Branch • Ski Resorts • Coal Tar – Barre Brownfield Site • Micro Hydro • Aquatic invasives • Dams – stream flow alteration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corridor easements • Work with land owner and developer for smarter growth • Study waste streams to see what is going out of the basin – land use • Public education and outreach • Good sound hydro, micro-hydro policies
<p>Little River</p>	<p>Scenic beauty Citizens Fish and bugs Water quality for swimming and recreation Renewable energy/hydro Duxbury Land Trust Waste water treatment facility Snow making facilities Rec path Waterbury reservoir Forest cover Bingham falls/swimming holes Access points – thru farms/woodlands Stowe Land Trust Agriculture Surface water – drinking water supplies Historical use of river</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cows manure – poor Ag. management practices • Stowe Mountain Resort • Knotweed/invasives • Inappropriate development • Rec path – threat to w. branch • Poor forestry practices • Channelization/ripwrap/gravel mining • Poor construction practices • Benign neglect • Climate change • Failing septic • Hydro power • NPS – in genera • Gravel/back road erosion • Snow disposal near river 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Impact design for development – site design • New zoning • River corridor easements • Conservation easements • Rec path relocation – un paving – pervious pavement • Ban snowmaking • Property owner stewardship – veg maint, stormwater retors, lawns, septic • Farmer incentives • Ed & Outreach - WQ • Riparian Buffers • Infrastructure maint. – roads/bridges/culverts • Incentives for towns/property owners for stormwater retrofits • Better mgmt of natural resources/WQ of mayo farm in Stowe
<p>Mainstem Upper Winooski River Kingsbury Branch North Branch Winooski Dog River</p>	<p>Wild fishery – Dog and NBW Scenic/Natural aesthetic of river History and heritage of watershed rivers Undeveloped headwaters – Little river and NBW High percent of forest land Farmland Access for recreation Wildlife associated with wetlands Clear water – minimum invasives/algae Citizen connectivity to river/basin Public access – non designated Conserved properties in NBW (VRC) Aesthetics Urban Aesthetics – Barre Benefit to being designated as an impaired waterway – projects are worth while Recreational opportunities Volunteers – public involvement Education / bio diversity Historical Aspect Awareness of our impacts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBW – road pull off trash dumping • Invasives on rivers - knotweed • Old dams/obsolete/non-functioning • Farming practices near/in stream and banks • Development pressures – on farm and forest land • Floodplain development • Old unlined landfills • Failing septic/E-coli...illicit discharges • Stormwater impairments • Invasives/exotics • Private Property Postings – loss of access • Limited Conservation – Restoration Resources • Lack of understanding of rivers and how they behave • Development pressures • Small Hydro • Permit Reform at the Legislative level (ANR Agenda) • Competition for volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pull off trash clean-up... systematic approach • Road erosion remediation • Conserve remaining floodplains • Invasive species removal • Outreach to river/lake riparian owners regarding stewardship • Protection of farm and forest lands • Dam inventory and assessment • Addressing e-coli and CSO's (smart cso) • In towns – naturalizing corridors/access • Dam assessment / inventory • Assessment of small hydro • Education on topics regarding the pros and cons of the development of hydro projects • Efforts to provide info to property owners on river/shore lines and responsibility • Town ordinances to address storm water (FEH) • Educating towns & citizens how rivers behave • Provide a list of BMPs • Better use of volunteers • More river/watershed specific focused I&E at local events • Promote/celebrate student river projects