For Immediate Release
June 12, 2018
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It's That Time of Year Again – Mad River Watch Begins!

Sampling results from the first round of Friends of the Mad River's 2018 Mad River Watch water quality monitoring show **no sites with unfavorable *E. coli* levels** as of Monday morning. After many beautiful days of sun over the weekend, there was no rain to wash pollutants off the landscape and into the water. The river's discharge (volume per second) came down from 112 cubic feet per second (cfs) Friday morning to reach 81.8 cfs on Monday morning at the US Geological Service flow gage in Moretown. The flow condition of the Mad River at the time of sampling Monday morning was Low and Steady (LS). The mean flow for this date in the last 89 years is 242 cfs, so the water is lower than usual at this time of year.

Remember that rains can cause *E. coli* levels to fluctuate, even on a daily basis, as water carrying pathogens moves down the watershed. FMR's *E. coli* sampling results are only a snapshot in time intended to give you a sense of the conditions that lead to high pathogen levels in the water so you can be informed. **You** are your best protector - use common sense and don't swim for several days after a rain. It is estimated that at the level of 235 colonies *E.coli* per 100 mL water, approximately 8 out of every 1,000 swimmers are likely to contract a water borne illness related to fecal contamination.

Watching the Mad River

As part of the Mad River Watch program, community volunteers collect samples of water on six occasions throughout the summer from more than 30 river and tributary sites. Then, Friends and Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) laboratories analyze the samples' bacteria and nutrient levels. Friends posts *E. coli* data in the Valley Reporter, on its Facebook and web sites, and on signs at ten swimholes across the Valley so that people have information to make their own recreational health decisions. In addition to *E. coli* data, Friends posts total phosphorus, nitrogen, and turbidity data on its website at summer's end when received back from the state lab. Over the decades, Friends has used Mad River Watch data to guide many successful clean-up efforts.

The Mad River is generally safe for swimming and boating. The federal Clean Water Act, septic regulations, lots of project funding, careful land stewardship, and the hard work of many people are to thank. But, there are times – particularly after a rainfall event – when it is possible that the river can make people sick. The water "shed" from the land after rain falls and snow melts eventually drains into the river. Along its way, it can pick up sediment and pollutants. Also, certain regions of the Mad River suffer from persistent water quality problems that contribute to poor aquatic wildlife habitat, harmful algal blooms, polluted groundwater, and exacerbated flooding.

This week's volunteers include: Charlie Baldwin, Sally Boudreau, Lindsay Browning, Susy Deane, Suze Edwards, Annie & Jula Fender, Jen Higgins, Fiona & Emmett Stowell, Annie Macmillan, Hillary Newton, Joel Rhodes, Susanne & George Schaefer, and Michael Ware. "The river connects our Mad River Valley community and its

clean water takes us all," says Corrie Miller, Friends of the Mad River's Executive Director. "Thanks to the Mad River Watch volunteers for all they do, to the landowners who give us access to important sampling spots, and to community members who carefully steward their land!"

For more information about *E. coli* and the Mad River Watch program visit www.FriendsoftheMadRiver.org. Throughout the summer, Mad River Watch results will be available in the Valley Reporter, on Facebook ("Friends of the Mad River"), and on sign posts at swimholes across the Valley. Friends of the Mad River is a community-supported organization committed to healthy land, clean water, and a vibrant community. Mad River Watch and other important programs depend on the generosity of community members; learn how to become a member and donate securely online at Friends' website.

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Photo:

Credit: Gretchen Mack

June 11, 2018

SITE LOCATION	SITE #	Water Temp. °F	E.coli per 100ml *
Blueberry Lake	BBL	63	7.5
Warren Falls (Mad River)	1	50	7.5
Warren Store (Freeman Brook)	4	50	22.6
Warren Riverside Park (Mad River)	7	54	2.0
Lareau Swimhole (Mad River)	19	54	34.1
Couples Club Field (Mad River)	19.2	54	6.3
Waitsfield Covered Bridge (Mad River)	20	56	9.8
Meadow Road Bridge (Mad River)	23	56	3.1
Moretown Village Swim Access (Mad River)	27	54	9.8
Ward Swimhole (Mad River)	29	60	6.3

* > 235 *E.coli* /100ml = Not suitable for recreation, according VT Department of Health and EPA

Flow and Weather Analysis
Sampling results from the first round of Friends of the Mad River's 2018 Mad River Watch water quality monitoring show **no sites with unfavorable *E. coli* levels** as of Monday morning. After many beautiful days of sun over the weekend, there was no rain to wash pollutants off the landscape and into the water. The river's discharge (volume per second) came down from 112 cubic feet per second (cfs) Friday morning to reach 81.8 cfs on Monday morning at the US Geological Service flow gage in Moretown. The flow condition of the Mad River at the time of sampling Monday morning was Low and Steady (LS). The mean flow for this date in the last 89 years is 242 cfs, so the water is lower than usual at this time of year.

River Flow
LS - low and steady: It has not rained in several days and the water is low.

Thanks to this week's volunteers!

Samplers - Lindsay Browning, Susy Deane, Suze Edwards, Annie & Jula Fender, Jen Higgins, Fiona & Emmett Stowell, Annie Macmillan, Joel Rhodes, and Michael Ware.

Posting Results - Sally Boudreau

Training and Support - Charlie Baldwin

E. coli Lab Coordinator - Paula Baldwin

Transporting Samples - Susanne & George Schaefer