

Thames River Basin Partnership Meeting Notes  
July 17, 2007

Attendees: Eric Thomas, CT DEP; Eric Rumsey, Killingly Assistant Town Planner; Mickey Weiss, Project Oceanology; Liz Rogers, USDA NRCS/RC&D Coordinator; Lois Bruinooge, QSHC; Lee Szruba, Town of Lisbon; Scott Gravatt, ECCD; Judy Rondeau, Town of Thompson; Tom Seidel, SECCOG; Jean Pillo, TRBP Coordinator; Special Guest Mike Dietz, CT NEMO

M. Weiss of Project O opened the meeting.

Meeting notes of April 10, 2007 approved by consensus.

Mike Dietz of CT NEMO gave an informative presentation on alternate stormwater management techniques, including rain gardens. For more information about Low Impact Development strategies, visit the CT NEMO website at <http://nemo.uconn.edu>.

TRBP Financial Report

Date	Transaction	Income (\$)	Expense (\$)	Balance (\$)
4/3/2007	FW bus deposit		100.00	1633.61
May 2007	FW workshop registrations (32 @ \$25)	800.00		
May 1 2007	50 flash drives (FW)		250.00	
May 1, 2007	Bus balance (FW)		500.00	
June 1, 2007	Tip bus driver (FW)		60.00	
June 26, 2007	40 box lunches (FW)		400.00	
June 12, 2007	Reimburse coordinator for expenses		33.93	
				1189.68

TRBP Coordinator's Activity Report

Primary focus of the TRBP Coordinator this quarter had been on revising the Plan of Work for 07/08, planning Floating Workshop VII (update to follow) and facilitating the watershed restoration project at Poquetanuck Cove.

Current focus is to close out the year one grant with a final billing for the watershed restoration project (update to follow) and submitting the final report and billing for it. Year 2 grant tasks (quarterly report, floating workshop and update plan of work) to be invoiced and billed once match paperwork completed.

Near future focus – begin to form partnership for stormwater retrofit project. Set up steering committee meeting to discuss project possibilities.

Outreach Events attended by the Coordinator:

Lakes Workshop\* in Woodstock (April 26) attended by 40 people  
Pequot Museum\* (April 28) poor attendance  
QSHC Water Subcommittee\* (May 8)  
Drinking Water Workshop\* in Brooklyn (May 21) about 25 people  
KIS/PMS water quality monitoring day at UCONN\* (May 31) amazing program!  
Floating Workshop VII\* (June 1) attendance 35 people on tour, more for reception on  
Garden on the Bridge  
StreamWalk Training\* (June 8, 15, 16, 30) 44 volunteers trained  
Low Impact Development Workshop\* (June 14) about 40 people attended

\*TRBP Coordinator presentation provided

Outreach materials produced this quarter:

Press releases related to Floating Workshop, Poquetanuck Cove watershed restoration and StreamWalks, LID workshop, Lakes Workshop.

USB flash drives containing the TRBP fact sheet and other data relevant to the Floating Workshop were distributed to all FW7 attendees.

Trifold brochures developed include Poquetanuck Cove outreach (still being finalized)

QSHC Water Quality Monitoring Program brochure with updates regarding the Massachusetts equipment grant

Website calendar periodically updated.

Watershed Restoration Project update:

Background – the project developed after a TRBP sponsored special tour of Poquetanuck Cove July 14, 2006. Working with experts from multiple agencies, the Poquetanuck Cove Preservation Committee (PCPC) developed the following actions to restore and/or preserve the special environment of Poquetanuck Cove:

1. Conduct a year long multi-seasonal plant survey to locate rare native plant communities.
  - a. The Nature Conservancy is contributing \$3000 towards this phase of the project. The Town of Ledyard Conservation Commission will provide \$2000. The Nature Conservancy will administer this phase of the project and is working with Bill Moorhead, the recommended botanist/contractor to draft up the Workplan and get this effort underway and completed by spring next year. Workplan expected to be complete by Friday, July20.
2. Initiate a multiyear herbicide and mulching program, taking special care to protect the rare plant communities previously identified.
  - a. The DEP Landowners incentive program awarded to Avalonia Land Conservancy approximately \$18,138 (75% of the \$24,000 3-year project estimate) and the CT Corporate Wetlands Restoration Program awarded them \$5,760 for the required match. The DEP WHAMM staff will serve as the contractor for this work.
  - b. Landowner permission form example used by TNC for a similar project being sought. PCPC still needs to complete this task. About 50% of affected landowners have been contacted and have granted permission.

3. Conduct follow up monitoring to assure the Phragmites does not become reestablished.
  - a. At this time, no separate funding has been supplied for the elaborate monitoring Workplan as prepared for the US Fish and Wildlife Long Island Sound Futures Fund, but the DEP WHAMM staff conducts its own monitoring. Bill Moorhead will possibly adjust his work agreement to include plot monitoring if his investigative work determines less rare species to monitor.
4. Conduct StreamWalk visual assessments of all Cove tributaries to get baseline watershed health information and to inventory areas of concern.
  - a. This effort is underway as part of the QSHC Water Quality Monitoring Program. NRCS staff Seth Lerman and Todd Bobowick provided the training on June 30. Twenty-two volunteers were trained.
5. Continue to educate landowners how they manage their land affects water quality.
  - a. Pfizer Corporation donated \$675 to Avalonia Land Conservancy to cover the cost of a two color tri-fold brochure and postage to mail one to each landowner with property fronting Poquetanuck Cove and its major tributary streams. The brochure will contain information on the special environmental qualities of this resource, a description of the threats to the cove, an outline of actions being taken to restore the watershed, and an outline of what citizens can do to protect the cove from further degradation.
  - b. The Rivers Alliance of Connecticut has agreed to provide enough “The Importance of Streamside Buffers” to send one to each landowner with property fronting Poquetanuck Cove and its major tributary streams. The Town of Preston will assist with mailing these brochures
6. Encourage preservation of land adjacent to Poquetanuck Cove and its tributary streams.
  - a. The above brochure includes references to land preservation and who to contact for further information.
  - b. January 17, 2007 an informational workshop on this subject was held at the Preston Community Center featuring Dave Kozak of the DEP LIS program.

TRBP Grant Status report (S. Gravatt)

Year 1 TRBP Coordinator funding through 319 grant final reports to be submitted soon.

Year 2 TRBP Coordinator funding through 319 grant signed by AG on May 31, 2007

Year 3 TRBP Coordinator funding through 319 grant – initial approval has been received – expecting contract by Spring 2008

New funding options needed for continuation of position.

Suggestions included:

FY 08 319 grant

SEP (supplemental environmental project funding but it would require a solid proposal)

Fee for service to assist towns with Phase 2 stormwater permit requirements 6 minimum measures.

TRBP Coordinator to explore options with the TRBP steering committee members.

07/08 TRBP Plan of Work was reviewed by members present. Minor changes were agreed on. Plan of Work approved by those present. TRBP Coordinator to make changes and post to the TRBP Website.

Floating Workshop review.

35 people in attendance. Possible conflicts with other events (LULA training, CT Trails Day/ Greenway Ceremony) and holding the event on a Friday of an already short work week (Memorial Day was the Monday prior) may have led to less than expected attendance. Efforts in the future should include notifying municipal officials earlier if they only meet once a month. A slide show of FW highlights to be posted on the TRBP website.

Partners Reports on their TRBP Plan of Work activities were given and processed into the TRBP Partner's in Action Report.

Stormwater Retrofit update;

Year 2 TRBP Coordinator 319 grant requires the Coordinator to "facilitate the Partnership's involvement with at least one town to assist with a stormwater retrofit that impacts a 303 (d) listed water. Consult with town(s) and DEP to identify highest priority problems, best method of retrofit, and act as the liaison between partner organizations and the town(s)and DEP." The TRBP stormwater retrofit committee to email potential available dates to the Coordinator, who will arrange the meeting.

Next TRBP Quarterly meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2007 and will be held at the NECCOG office in Dayville.

The TRBP Coordinator position is funded in part by an EPA Clean Water Act section 319 grant provided by the CT DEP.