

Thames River Basin Partnership  
Winter Meeting Notes January 15, 2008

Attendees: Kathy Howard, Project O; Dean Gusafson, Lebanon IWC; Carl Fantneau, Griswold Town Planner; Mike Goodwin, Trout Unlimited; Lee Szruba, Lisbon; Lois Bruinooge, QSHC; Fred Grimsey, Save the Rivers, Save the Hills; Kristin Zawacki, Waterford DPW; Judy Rondeau, Thompson; Scott Gravatt, ECCD; Melissa Knickerbocker; student; Rick Canvan, John Guskowski and Chuck Eaton, CME Associates; Maureen Fitzgerald, Waterford Planner; Eric Rumsey, Killingly Planner; Elena Pascorella, Landscape Elements LLC; Liz Rogers, USDA NRCS; Syl Pauley and Rita Reiss, NECCOG; Holly Drinkuth, TNC/GVI; Eric Trott, Coventry Planner; Jana Butts, WINCOG; Tom Seidel, SECCOG; Elaine Trench, USGS; Delia Fey, Woodstock Planner; Larry Zimmerman, Amston Lake Association, Jean Pillo, TRBP Coordinator

Meeting notes of October 16, 2007 approved by consensus. Coordinator will post to the website.

First time attendees to a TRBP meeting were introduced to the Floating Workshop concept and ideas for the 2008 workshop were solicited from the audience. Suggestions included the Niantic River, Ashland Pond/Pachaug River, the French River and Mansfield Hollow. An invitation to join the FW planning committee was extended to all.

A special presentation was given on the relationship of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development on General Stormwater Permitting by Traci Iott, Supervisor of the CT Department of Environmental Protection Criteria and Implementation Section of Planning & Standards Division, and by Nisha Patel, Supervisor of the Stormwater Permitting Program. Under the Clean Water Act, Connecticut is required to meet water quality standards, and where standards are not being met, we must work to achieve environmental goals through the creation of TMDL criteria. Eagleville Brook in the upper Thames River watershed is not meeting its designated use as an aquatic habitat. It is the first stream in the nation to have a TMDL developed based on the percentage of impervious cover in the watershed. Stormwater runoff in that watershed is the suspected stressor leading to its impaired status. Other municipalities can learn from this example and more carefully plan to reduce stormwater impacts with Low Impact Development strategies.

#### TRBP Financial Report

10/30/07	Lois Bruinooge-reimb. mtg refresh. (ck #6234)	\$	23.01	\$	1,156.67
11/02/07	JE to reallocate TRBP YR2 grant FW7 mileage	\$	115.43	\$	1,041.24
12/11/07	Jean Pillo-TRBP website renewal (ck #6264)	\$	48.43	\$	992.81
12/11/07	Rivers Alliance-Hydropower workshop (ck #6266)	\$	50.00	\$	942.81

TRBP Coordinator's Report on NPS grant task activities

### **TMDL Information and Education Outreach**

The announcement for the TRBP Winter Quarterly Meeting (outlined above) was distributed to over 100 people on the e-distribution list maintained by the TRBP Coordinator as well as distributed by the GVI listserv, the CT APA website, the TRBP and ECCD website calendars and was attended by 30 people. A new TRBP webpage on TMDLs is being researched and will be circulated for proper approvals before posted to the website.

**Floating Workshop** Slide show with program highlights is still available at the TRBP.org website.

**Plan of Work** The TRBP Coordinator continues to use the TRBP plan of work when accepting invitations to programs. Partner programs that reflect plan goals are posted on the trbp.org website calendar when information is provided. Partner actions that reflect Workplan goals are publicized in the TRBP quarterly newsletter, Partners in Action.

**NPS Education and Outreach** Applied for a grant jointly with the ECCD from the Temper of the Times Foundation for funds to produce a brochure about Stormwater impacts on wildlife habitat. Unfortunately we were denied. Attended Press Event at Mystic Aquarium re: LISFF grant. Attended WQX Training for Watershed Groups @ EPA NE Regional Labs for an Introduction to the EPA STORET system, due to go online in fall 08. Gave a PowerPoint presentation by invitation at QVCC for the Learning in Retirement program "Watershed 101"; met with Coventry Town Planner, Eric Trott re: rain garden demonstration project at the town hall annex building planned to be implemented this spring; attended Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Summit sponsored by MA DEP in Worcester; attended Hydropower Summit at Northeast Utilities in Berlin, sponsored by The CT Rivers Alliance; participated in 2 QSHC 2009 "Source to Sea" planning events; October 2007 Partners in Action Report was e-distributed and posted to the TRBP website. Multiple press releases were also submitted to area press.

Website maintenance - transferred website (with help) to a more user friendly service provider. The website is now registered under 2 different domain names – [www.thamesriverbasinpartnership.org](http://www.thamesriverbasinpartnership.org) and [www.trbp.org](http://www.trbp.org). The later will transfer you to the traditional domain name but will be easier to use in documents. Special thanks to Bet Zimmerman of [www.sialis.org](http://www.sialis.org) for her donated professional help with this project.

### **Stormwater retrofit project**

October/November 2007 organized QSHC Water Quality Monitoring Program volunteers to do a comprehensive study of water quality in the Five Mile River in 6 locations from above Quaddick Lake to below Five Mile Pond in Danielson using RBV protocol. Continuing dialog with Killingly town hall staff towards implementation of a stormwater retrofit project in the Danielson section of town. Approval to move ahead with this task has been granted by Stan Zaremba, 319 coordinator for the CT DEP.

All quarterly grant reports have been files to the CT DEP on time.

**Future actions:** The TRBP Coordinator will be keynote speaker at the Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc annual pot luck dinner on January 26, 2008. A rain barrel promotion/fund raiser is being planned for Spring 08. The Lisbon Community Center parking lot was offered as the pick up location for a June 8 distribution date.

**TRBP Partners Reports** can be reviewed in the current issue of the TRBP Partners in Action Report on the [www.trbp.org](http://www.trbp.org) website.

### **TRBP Coordinator Grant Status**

The TRBP Coordinator is about midway through the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of funding, which must conclude by October 2008. An EPA CWA NPS section 319 grant for a 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the coordinator position has been approved. A request was made by the ECCD to the CT DEP to draft the contract. Being told that funding a 4<sup>th</sup> year for a TRBP Coordinator was not likely, the ECCD submitted a request to fund a part time staff position for work on developing a watershed based plan for Mashamoquet Brook in Pomfret, pledging ECCD support for minimal TRBP administrative time if no other funding sources were located. Other Partner organizations were encouraged to seek additional funding opportunities to continue the TRBP coordinator position.

The spring TRBP quarterly meeting will be on April 22, 2008 at the new WINCOG offices in Willimantic.

Meeting notes were respectfully compiled by Jean Pillo, TRBP Coordinator