

Thames River Basin Partnership
April 22, 2008 Meeting Notes

Attendance: Ed Greenough, Bob Hanacek, US ACE; Eric Thomas, CT DEP; Lois Bruinooge, QSHC; Delia Fey, Woodstock Town Planner; Lee Szruba, Town of Lisbon; Paula Coughlin, CT Audubon Society; Dick Booth, Wyndham Land Trust; Juliana Barrett, CT Seagrant; Anne Roberts Pierson, Avalonia Land Conservancy and Ledyard CC; Holly Drinkuth, TNC/GVI; Liz Rogers, NRCS ECRC&DA Coordinator; Jana Butts, WinCOG Planner; Don Exley, TU Thames Valley Chapter; Elaine Trench, USGS; Tom Seidel, SCCOG Planner; Dawn Pindell, FSA; Dave Schroeder, Ledyard CC; Scott Gravatt, ECCD; John Guskowski, ECRC&DA and CME Associates; G. Leslie Sweetnam, aerial photographer; Jean Pillo, Coordinator Thames River Basin Partnership

Meeting Attendants were welcomed to the TRBP Meeting by Mark Paquette, Executive Director of the Windham Regional Council of Governments.

The meeting notes from January 15, 2008 were approved by consensus.

TRBP sponsored Rain Barrel Promotion

TRBP Coordinator Jean Pillo updated the group on the Rain Barrel promotion in partnership with the New England Rain Barrel Company. Press releases will be prepared in May. Orders are due by June 4 for pick up on June 8 at the Lisbon Community Center.

2008 Floating Workshop Update

Partners were updated on the progress of the TRBP Floating Workshop planned for June 13, 2008 at Mansfield Hollow Lake. The keynote speaker, Mark Smith of TNC has confirmed his participation. Meeting space at Mansfield Community Center has been reserved. The program is planning is near complete. Financial sponsorship has not secured. Funding from Northeast Utilities had been requested.

Special Guest Presentation

Jenny Dickson of the CT DEP Wildlife Division gave a special presentation on the Connecticut Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. She overviewed the 8 required elements of the plan and the importance of partnering organizations to help with the educational component of plan which is an unfunded part of the plan.

TRBP Financial Report

12/11/07			\$942.81
2/05/08	Reimburse Coordinator for misc. expenses	\$13.39	\$929.42

Approximately \$25 worth of miscellaneous expenses have not been submitted, including receipts for meeting refreshments.

TRBP Coordinator updated the Partners on project updates and outreach events.

Poquetanuck Cove Phragmites Control Project – Committee met to mail Streamside Buffer brochures to all Cove and tributary abutters. Brochures were donated by the Rivers Alliance of Connecticut. Postage was paid for with funding provided by Pfizer.

The TRBP stormwater retrofit committee continued to meet with Killingly town staff with regards to including stormwater retrofit projects in Phase 2 of their Water Street redevelopment project in Danielson. Several appropriate projects were proposed and a presentation by a representative the filtera company, who manufacture tree box planters, was arranged. The TRBP Coordinator will continue to work with the town of Killingly to develop a memorandum of understanding that will allow continued focus on this project beyond the grant funded period.

Several press releases related to Non-Point source water pollution were submitted to area press. The Villager newspapers printed articles written by Pillo on simplified explanations of what the Clean Water Act means by “fishable” and “swimmable”. Several non-profit organizations included an article in their newsletters on the rain barrel promotion and why rain barrels are good for the environment.

Pillo was invited to be the keynote speaker at the annual Avalonia Land Conservancy pot luck dinner, where she overviewed the project at Poquetanuck Cove. ALC is the grant administrator for many of the funding sources associated with the TRBP P. Cove Phragmites project.

Future TRBP Coordinator activities will focus on outreach regarding Total Maximum Daily Load education on watersheds in the greater Thames area that have TMDLs assigned (including Long Island Sound and Eagleville Brook).

08/09 TRBP Plan of Work

Draft TRBP Plan of Work for FY08/09 documents were distributed. Partners were asked to review them and send comments to Pillo if changes were necessary. The Partnership will vote to accept the final draft at the July 08 meeting.

Partner Reports

Partners gave their TRBP Plan of Work activity reports. These reports were compiled into the Spring 2008 TRBP Partners in Action report and distributed electronically and posted to the TRBP website.

Upcoming meetings

CT DEP will be hosting the NEIWPCC Conference from May 19 -21 at the Mystic Hilton in Groton.

The next TRBP Quarterly meeting will be July 15, 2008 at Project O in Groton. Lee Szruba suggested Mickey Weiss present on his lobster research in Mexico.

Meeting notes compiled by Jean Pillo, TRBP Coordinator