



## Thames River Basin Partnership

January 27, 2009

Meeting notes

Attendance: Lois Bruinooge, TLGV; Mike Gilluly, Bud McAlister, Dan Lukens, Partners in Healthy Communities; Sue Westa, Mike Altshul, GVI; Marc Cohen, USRWWA; Amy Paterson, Trust for Public Lands; Holly Drinkuth, TNC/GVI; Jessical Morgan, CT DEP; Maura Robie; Anne Roberts-Pierson, Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc.; Steven Sadlogski, Canterbury Planner; Scott Gravatt, Jean Pillo, ECCD; Elaine Trench, USGS; Liz Rogers, NRCS/RC&D'; Dawn Pindell, USDA FSA; Judy Rondeau, Thompson; Don Exley, TU; Joanne Demars, USDA Rural Development

Meeting note of October 21, 2008 approved by consensus.

Mike Altshul of the Green Valley Institute explained the process and purpose of conducting a Municipal Co-occurring Resource Analysis for land use planning. The audience was able to participate in a live demonstration. Mike is developing an ArcMap extension for this type of work.

### TRBP Financial Report

date	Activity	Expense	Income	Account balance
9/30/08				\$1,417.84
12/09/08	Renew website 1 year	\$67.63		\$1,350.21
1/20/09	Miscellaneous expenses	\$14.73		\$1,335.48

### TRBP Coordinator activity log

#### Natural resource events attended

- Invited as a participant in the Natchaug River Watershed Conservation Action Planning process being co-sponsored by TNC, Naubesatuck Watershed Council and WINCOG. Step 1 (October) defining conservation targets and step 2 (January) threat assessment of those targets completed. Step 3 (March) will focus on developing strategies for resource protection.
- CT Audubon Society Center at Pomfret – Grassland birds workshop II
- Represented the TRBP and TLGV Water Subcommittee at the CT Watershed Conservation Network sponsored by the Rivers Alliance of Connecticut. November 7th, 2008 at NU.

#### Agriculture related events attended

- Attended a Planning for Agriculture: A guide for CT Municipalities workshop
- DEP manure management meeting

- Windham County annual Farm Tour

Continuing with TMDL outreach as tasked by the Coordinator grant.

- Collaborated on a two part article to continue the “Learn What NOT to Burn” campaign with Bet Zimmerman for her weekly column for the Villager newspapers in northeastern CT. (see <http://www.ourbetternature.org> mercury1 and mercury2). A similar article will be featured in the ECCD spring newsletter.
- Conversation with DEP TMDL staff indicated no new TMDLs under development in this part of CT at this time. Existing TMDLs include upper Willimantic (metals) Eagleville Brook (impervious cover/stormwater) Long Island Sound (Nitrates) and Northeastern regional (mercury). It was determined that quarterly meetings on this subject were not necessary, but when new TMDLs are being developed, TRBP will be utilized as a resource for outreach purposes.

#### P. Cove update

- Helped prepare final reports for PFWF grant for Avalonia
- Mulching operation almost complete.

#### Future TRBP funding

- Applied to Tom’s of Maine for TRBP support for core mission work - unfunded
- Applied for mini-grant from CWP for technical assistance and funding for Coordinator time in order to plan a workshop on conducting municipal stormwater retrofit opportunity inventory. Application denied.
- Planning for a rain barrel promotion with pick up date on June 20. Mansfield will be one pick up location. Negotiating for a second “southern” location – possibly at the Norwich USDA service center on the same date. TRBP will earn \$9/barrel sold. Demo rain barrel will travel from Source to Sea and places in between this spring.

The TRBP coordinator has been asked to present a workshop called “Backyard Water Wise” in 3 locations this spring. Woodstock in March, Ledyard in April and Mansfield in May. Will focus on relevant local water quality issues at each workshop, stormwater/NPS impacts and promote the 2009 rain barrel sale.

#### TRBP Website updates:

- Added an EPA widget to the TRBP website homepage. Insert a zip code and learn watershed address/HUC code and which watershed organizations are active in the area. Plan to go back and enter TRBP and TLGV where appropriate.
- Inserted a DEP slide show/place holder under water flow data for upcoming DEP stream flow regulations draft document due out “soon”.
- As time permits, seek out broken web-links and replace with up to date hyperlinked information.
- Will soon post Coventry rain garden slide show on the web. Final product to have step-by-step guide on how the rain garden was installed (and why), links to plant lists appropriate for rain gardens, fact sheet on rain gardens in winter, NEMO rain garden brochure, DEP LID brochure.

#### Floating Workshop 9 Update

planning committee phone conference (courtesy of NRCS thanks Liz) on October 28.

- Agreement to invite Mark Tedesco of EPA LIS program as keynote speaker (accepted)

- Focused on development of municipal survey for social marketing efforts to enable behavior changes at municipal level. Draft in development.
  - Mailed copy to each municipality in Thames watershed (address database partially developed – assistance needed)
  - On-line downloadable electronic copy also to be available.
- Eric Thomas requested Jessica Morgan, LID Coordinator, represent DEP Water Bureau on the planning committee
- FW9 will be advertised widely through inclusion on TLGV Source to Sea brochure and the municipal survey. Space will be limited by boat capacity.
- Still waiting for final contract from PFWF.

#### TRBP Coordinator Grant Status Report

TRBP Coordinator 3<sup>rd</sup> year of funding at 20 hours/week via an EPA Clean Water Act through the CT DEP will be exhausted in April 09. The ECCD has been grant administrator for this project. ECCD has elevated Jean Pillo to a full time District employee and will donate her time in a limited capacity to continue some TRBP support functions, including meeting facilitation, website calendar maintenance and the Partners in Action Report. Other TRBP functions will revert to steering committee attention. Funding for special TRBP projects will be a continued focus of Ms. Pillo. Ms. Pillo will also still function as The Last Green Valley Water Quality Monitoring Program Coordinator with funding provided by TLGV. Her new title is ECCD Watershed Conservation Coordinator.

The Partner's Reports on Plan of Work Activities will be recorded in the Thames River Basin Partnership Partners in Action Report Winter 09 edition.

#### Next steps

Next TRBP meeting will be held on April 21. Liz Rogers will request State Conservationist Doug Zehner to address our organization.

Partners were reminded to review the TRBP 08/09 Plan of Work and think about revisions for 09/10. A PoW Steering Committee will formed to address this task.

Meeting notes respectfully prepared by J. Pillo, TRBP Coordinator

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