



Thames River Basin Partnership April 20, 2010 Meeting notes

Attendance: Jean Pillo, Judy Rondeau, ECCD; Elaine Trench, USGS; Eric Thomas, CT DEP; Lois Bruinooge, TLGV; Joellen Anderson, Avalonia Land Conservancy; Delia Fey, Town of Woodstock; Holly Drinkuth, GVI/TNC; Jana Butts and Michael Cipriano, WINCOG; Liz Crutcher, SCCOG; Mark Goetz, Eric Apgar and George Obeng, NECCOG; Marilu Soileau, USDA FSA; Bud McAllister and Mike Hatt, Partners for Healthy Communities; Grace Jacobson and Delia Fey, Woodstock; Liz Rogers, NRCS and RC&D.

Meeting notes for January 19, 2010 approved by group consensus.

Special Presentation: An update on the status of Regional GIS Programs at Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG), Windham Region Council of Governments (WinCOG) and Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) was co-presented by a representative by each of the regional COGs. The COGs provide planning assistance to their member towns. Under the Responsible Growth Act and funded by the CT Office of Policy and Management, each COG in CT received funding to increase access to Geographic Information System (GIS) data in order to make GIS available at “everyone’s fingertips”. NECCOG hosted this meeting.

Liz Crutcher of SCCOG reviewed online data currently available at <http://host.appgeo.com/sccog/>. The limiting factor of this program will be data currency. The grant allows for 2 years of data update via their contractor. Individual municipalities will need to keep data current. Liz credited Claudia Tomayo, her predecessor, with much of the work related to this project.

Jana Butts of WinCOG presented a demonstration website that is not yet publically available. They are targeting a June 30 launch of the active site.

Mark Goetz of NECCOG updated the TRBP on the status of their project. Many towns in their region were lacking digitized parcel data, so they have been focusing on creating accurate parcel information which has required significant field work to correct town boundary info. They are hoping to have a 12 town data set available by “summer”.

TRBP Financial Report –

Starting balance	income	expenses	\$ 2,569.30
January Meeting refreshments		\$23.16	\$ 2,546.14
ECRC&D FW fund	\$1000.00		\$ 3,546.14
Ending balance			\$ 3,546.14

TRBP business

ECCD, on behalf of the Thames River Basin Partnership, is sponsoring the third annual TRBP rain barrel promotion in cooperation with the New England Rain Barrel Company. In addition to rain barrels (\$84.95) constructed from repurposed beverage concentrate barrels, this year the NE Rain Barrel Company will also offer a Bio-orb composter (\$99.95). A general distribution date has been set for June 19. Two general delivery locations have been arranged: CT Audubon Society Center at Pomfret, located at 189 Route 169 in Pomfret Center and the USDA Service Center, located at 238 West Town Street in Norwich. Funds raised through this promotion will support ECCD staff time devoted to TRBP meeting development and administrative support. Shop online at <http://www.nerainbarrel.com/> or call 877-977-3135.

Floating Workshop X update

ECCD estimates it will require \$2000 worth of staff time to plan and carry out this year's Floating Workshop. The Eastern Connecticut RC&D Council is providing \$1000 towards that cost. Other funders are being sought. A motion by Liz Rogers and seconded by Eric Thomas to provide up to \$1000 from the Thames River Basin Partnership account to the ECCD as a fall back if additional funding is not secured was approved by those present. Floating Workshop X will feature the Phragmites Control Project at Poquetanuck Cove.

Partner reports were recorded in the Spring 2010 Partners in Action Report, available at www.trbp.org.

Next meeting will be July 20, 2010 at Project O in Groton and will feature a presentation by Juliana Barrett on Coastal Buffer Planting.

Meeting notes recorded by Jean Pillo, Watershed Conservation Coordinator, ECCD