



Thames River Basin Partnership October 18, 2011 Meeting notes

Attendance: Alan Paradis, Bud McAllister, Partners for Healthy Communities; Marc Cohen, ASRWVA; Judy Rondeau, Jean Pillo, ECCD; Bev Thornton, Brooklyn CC and ECCD; Lois Bruinooge, TLGV; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Anne Roberts Pierson, Avalonia and ECCD; Grace Jacobson, Woodstock CC; Ken Butkiewicz, Dudley Water Quality; Jana Butts, WINCOG/WWP; Elaine Todd Trench, USGS

Meeting notes for July 19, 2011 were approved by group consensus.

Special Presentation

The fall meeting of the Thames River Basin Partnership was hosted by the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret at their new Lois Orswell Grassland Bird Conservation Center. The official ribbon cutting ceremony for this education center was held on October 8, 2011. The energy efficient building is located on the footprint of a former dairy barn and it overlooks the 700 acre Bafflin Sanctuary. Much of the Bafflin Sanctuary is managed as grassland bird habitat. The Bafflin Sanctuary was donated to the Connecticut Audubon Society by Lois Orswell over a period of years in the 1990s. The new center, located at 218 Day Road in Pomfret Center, Connecticut is open Monday – Friday 9 AM – 4 PM and weekends from noon – 4 PM. Follow this link <http://www.ctaudubon.org/center-at-pomfret> for more CAS program information.

TRBP Financial Report

After the Floating Workshop, the account held \$2012.70. TRBP was reimbursed for a portion of the Floating Workshop insurance (\$77.67) when the cost was shared between three rather than 2 events. Final total account balance is \$2090.37. J. Pillo will be reimbursed \$18.44 for meeting refreshments for the October meeting out of this amount. The TRBP financial report was approved by consensus.

TRBP business

L. Bruinooge of TLGV reported that an additional \$3000 in support of TRBP Coordinator Time was requested in their annual budget. If approved, ECCD will provide additional staff time to support the partnership meeting organization.

J. Pillo pointed out the TRBP website is in need of overhaul, especially after the CT DEEP reconfigures their website. Many hyperlinked sections are or will be broken. The web software (Front Page) is obsolete and no longer supported by Microsoft. A discussion regarding future action on the TRBP website, possible funding sources and avenues to update the website were discussed. The TRBP steering committee will meet to discuss further action.

The TRBP Plan of Work for FY2012 has not yet been updated. There was a discussion to modify the main goals to be more general in focus followed by more specific action items. A Plan of Work steering committee will meet via phone conference on Wednesday, November 2 at 10 AM to further this conversation. E. Thomas to see if CT DEEP will sponsor the conference

call. M. Cohen will load the current Plan of Work up onto Google Documents and send out instructions to the steering committee on how to access document during the conference.

A list of the 11 prior TRBP Floating Workshops was distributed. A discussion regarding potential workshop locations and themes for FW12 followed. Interest was expressed in featuring the Willimantic River. The Willimantic River has a USGS stream gage, is a Greenway, has many water trails developed, focus on mill reuse, and a TMDL for bacteria is in the draft stage. A steering committee will be formed to develop this workshop.

Partner reports were recorded in the Fall 2011 Partners in Action Report, available at www.trbp.org.

Next meeting will be January 17, 2012. The theme and location of the meeting is not yet determined. A snow date will be planned in event of unsafe driving conditions.

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