



Thames River Basin Partnership January 17, 2012 Meeting notes

Attendance: Jean Pillo and Judy Rondeau, ECCD; Grace Jacobson, Woodstock Conservation Commission, Holly Drinkuth, CNP/TNC; Susan Westa, CNP; Ray Covino, NRCS; Bev Thornton, Brooklyn Conservation Commission; Marc Cohen; Maura Robie; Deanna Bergondo, US Coast Guard; Jean Cass; Dixie Goodwin, Thames Valley TU; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Rick Potvin, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Dave Goodrich, Town of Hampton; Anne Roberts Pierson, Avalonia Land Conservancy; Lois Bruinooge, TLGV; Sal DeCarli, EC RC&D Coordinator

Meeting notes for October 18, 2011 were approved by group consensus.

The winter meeting of the Thames River Basin Partnership was hosted by the NRCS. Ray Covino, District Conservationist welcomed the TRBP to the new Windham County USDA Center in Danielson. News releases about NRCS program assistance were shared with the group.

Special Presentation

Holly Drinkuth of Community and Natural Resource Planning Program and The Nature Conservancy gave a presentation on the Natchaug River Basin Conservation Action Planning process. This program led to the eight towns in the watershed signing an intermunicipal compact agreeing to promote conservation practices that will protect the water quality of this eastern Connecticut benchmark stream. Click [here](#) for more information.

TRBP Financial Report

TRBP began the quarter with \$2090.37. Expenses were \$55.50 for Go-Daddy webhosting and domain name fees for one year and \$18.44 for October meeting refreshments. J. Pillo will submit an invoice for January meeting refreshments. The financial report was approved by consensus.

TRBP business

J. Pillo reported that the TRBP website www.trbp.org was updated thru December 2011 with meeting notes, newsletters and the January meeting agenda.

Lee Szruba, representing the Town of Lisbon, has resigned from the TRBP. J. Pillo sent her a letter thanking her for her service on many TRBP committees and as the TRBP Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Council.

Maura Robie of Woodstock offered to step in as the TRBP rep on the ECRC&D Council.

TRBP Plan of Work. J. Pillo explained unusual difficulties of preparing an annual plan of work this year with partners that weren't certain of their own focus or funding. The traditional schedule for the work plan was based on a July 1 – June 30 calendar year. Many partners don't have an approved work plan until July. Federal agencies fiscal years run from October 1 – September 30. J. Pillo proposed to restructure the work plan to remove specific partner involvement and to change the start of the work plan to January instead of July. A motion was

made by L. Bruinooge and seconded by G. Jacobson to change the starting date of the TRBP Plan of Work from July to January. Motioned carried.

A draft copy of the TRBP Plan of Work, prepared by J. Pillo was discussed. Minor modifications were requested and noted. Further discussion on the TRBP Plan of Work focused on the length of time the plan of work would be valid. A motion was made by E. Thomas and seconded by M. Cohen to approve the TRBP Plan of Work and extend the Plan of Work from 1 year to 3 years with an annual review at the January meeting. Motion carried. J. Pillo will incorporate the modifications to the TRBP Plan of Work and upload it to the TRBP website.

Floating Workshop 12 will focus on the Willimantic River. D. Goodrich, A. Roberts Pierson, E. Thomas and B. Thornton volunteered to serve on the steering committee. Jana Butts had previously offered to be on the committee as well.

Partner reports were recorded in the Winter 2012 Partners in Action Report, available at www.trbp.org.

Next meeting will be April 17, 2012. The theme and location of the meeting is not yet determined. There was interest in learning more about a culvert survey organized by Neal Hagstrom of the CT DEEP. J. Pillo will contact him to see if he can do a presentation on the project.

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