



Thames River Basin Partnership

July 17, 2012

Meeting notes

Attendance: Jean Pillo, ECCD; Ray Covino, NRCS; Shane Donahue, TLGV; Elaine Trench, USGS; Dave Schroeder, Ledyard Conservation Commission; Syma Ebbin, CT SG/UCONN; Mickey Weiss, Project O; Anne Roberts Pierson, Avalonia Land Conservancy; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Bud McAllister, PHC

Meeting notes for April 17, 2012 were approved by group consensus.

The Partnership was welcomed Project Oceanology by Mickey Weiss.

Special Presentation

Elaine Trench of the US Geologic Survey New England Water Science Center Connecticut Office presented a summary of the [Status and Trends of Nutrients in Streams in Northeastern United States](#) (USGS Scientific Investigative Report 2011- 5114). The study demonstrated water quality trends from 1975 – 2003 based on available data. This report is part of the National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA). The study area included northeastern United States from Maine to the Chesapeake Bay area. Trends in the Quinebaug River were highlighted for our audience.

TRBP Financial Report

TRBP began the quarter with \$1983.13 after the \$13.49 deducted for the April meeting expenses paid. Floating Workshop income was \$640. Floating Workshop expenses were \$338.05 including refreshments, insurance and a donation to the Eagleville Fire Department for use of their meeting room. Final balance \$2,321.59. The financial report was approved by consensus.

TRBP Floating Workshop Recap

Floating Workshop 12 focused on the Willimantic River after 40 years of the Clean Water Act. Thirty five people participated in the workshop. Hugo Thomas was the keynote speaker for the event. He gave a slide show of the river conditions during the 1970s, when it was not uncommon for the river to change color depending on what color dye the mills were using that day, and untreated human waste was commonly discharged into the river. The Willimantic River Alliance presented a “Spirit of the River” award to Hugo Thomas in recognition of his leadership of a taskforce that initiated conservation efforts in the Willimantic River. Chris Bellucci of the CT DEEP gave an overview of the Clean Water Act and a resultant Total Maximum Daily Load analysis for the upper Willimantic River and how it was effective in reducing waste water contaminants in the upper segment of the river. Finally, prior to moving the program outdoors, Lois Bruinooge of The Last Green Valley announced a Willimantic River Alliance and TLGV joint application was approved and that portions of the Willimantic River were designated National Recreational Trails by the National Park Service. Outdoor programs included efforts by the University of Connecticut to minimize waste water discharge impacts on water quality in the river, geology of the river valley and the transformation of a site from a waste water treatment plant to a riverside park. Unfortunately due to heavy storms moving into

the area, it was necessary to cancel a paddle on Eagleville Lake and hike along the Willimantic River Trail. Workshop participants returned to the Eagleville Fire Department and were treated to an alternate Willimantic River Float made from a combination of locally bottled Hosmer Mountain Root Beer and UConn Dairy Bar vanilla ice cream.

Partner reports were recorded in the TRBP newsletter Partners in Action Report.

Next meeting will be October 16. Meeting location and speaker TBD.

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