



Thames River Basin Partnership

January 21, 2014

Meeting notes

Attendance: Jean Pillo, Judy Rondeau, ECCD; Eric Thomas, HeleneHochholzer, DEEP; Charlie Boos, Anne Roberts Pierson, Joellen Anderson, Avalonia Land Conservancy; Deanna Bergondo, CGA; Dave Goodrich, Hampton IWC; Bill Labich, Highstead Foundation; Ray Covino, USDA NRCS; Lois Bruinooge, TLGV; Sharon

Meeting notes for October 15, 2013 were approved by group consensus.

Special Presentation

This quarter's special presentation was given by Andy Rzeznikiewicz, property manager of the Connecticut Audubon Society 700 acres Grassland Bird Center in Pomfret, the 160 acre Edwin Teale Sanctuary in Hampton and approximately 500 acres of land owned by the Wyndham Land Trust in Pomfret. Andy has a variety of management plans that include early successional habitat, grassland habitat, and even a small pitch pine forest on the land in Audubon. He maintains 200 blue bird nesting boxes and 25 nesting boxes suitable for kestrel and screech owls. The primary grassland bird species on the Pomfret sanctuary are bobolinks, meadowlarks, savanna sparrows and kestrels. Juvenile kestrels born on the sanctuary are banded before the fledge their nesting box. Some land is leased for farming with the restriction that hay can't be mowed until after July 15 to support grassland bird nesting practices. Habitat management plan implementation is partially funded by USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service WHIP and EQIP programs. There are approximately 8 miles of hiking trails on the Grassland Bird Sanctuary, open to the public from dawn to dusk.

TRBP Financial Report

We started the quarter with \$2269.88 in the TRBP account. J. Pillo was reimbursed \$8.59 for Floating Workshop related expenses. The final balance in the account is \$2261.29. Additional charges related to upkeep of the TRBP website and domain name registration \$72.33 will be deducted from the account prior to the next quarterly meeting.

The financial report was approved by consensus.

TRBP Coordinator's Report

TRBP website project update: no new information to report. TLGV has an active RFP to hire a web designer to update their website. They will inquire if it is possible to absorb the TRBP website as part of that project and if it will be possible for multiple people to have access to it for updating purposes.

The Eastern Connecticut Resource and Development Council is seeking someone willing to represent TRBP at their monthly council meetings.

TRPB Partners presented updates on their activities compatible with the TRBP Plan of Work. These activities were compiled in a separate Fall 2013 TRBP Partners in Action Report.

Ideas for the 2014 Floating Workshop were discussed. General consensus was to look into means to feature the Patchaug River watershed for next year's event.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2014. Meeting location has not been determined. The remaining TRBP quarterly meetings for 2014 will be July 15 and October 21.

Meeting notes prepared by Jean Pillo, Watershed Conservation Coordinator, ECCD. These meeting notes are not official until approved at the next TRBP meeting.