



Thames River Basin Partnership

July 15, 2014

Meeting notes

Attendance: Jean Pillo, Judy Rondeau, Dan Mullins, ECCD; Eric Thomas, DEEP; Anne Roberts Pierson, Beth Sullivan, Biati and Jon Ackley, Avalonia Land Conservancy/ECCD; Bev Thornton, Brooklyn CC/ECCD; Ray Covino, Abby Phillips, USDA NRCS; Bud McCallister, Partners for Healthy Communities; Jean Cass; Dave Goodrich, Hampton IWC; Lois Bruinooge, TLGV; Jon Morrison, USGS; Jean McGinnis, Mohegan Tribe; Dale Brine, UConn Intern; David Casper, Gateway Community College; Joan Smith, GOSA; Mickey Weiss, Project O; Harry Smith, City of New London, Julianna Barrett, CT Sea Grant

Meeting notes for April 15, 2014 were approved by group consensus.

Special Presentation

This quarter's special presentation was given by Julianna Barrett of CT Sea Grant. CT Sea Grant is leading an initiative called the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA). The goal of CIRCA is to increase the resilience and sustainability of vulnerable communities in Connecticut to the growing impacts of climate change on the natural, built, and human environments. This goal will be accomplished by bringing together the world-class research and outreach capabilities of the University of Connecticut (UConn) with the extensive practical experience of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to create and disseminate practical and sustainable strategies to enhance the resilience of the built environment while protecting natural ecosystems.

TRBP Financial Report

We started the quarter with \$2,136.65. \$14.19 was deducted to cover the April meeting expenses. \$325.27 was spent on the Floating Workshop. Of this amount, \$26.97 will be recorded as an expense in the next quarter's financial report. Income from the floating workshop totaled \$635.00 from both paid registrations and cash donations. Total financial gain from Floating Workshop 14 was \$309.73. The TRBP account balance as of June 30, 2014 was \$2468.89.

The financial report was approved by consensus.

TRBP Coordinator's Report

The 14th annual Floating Workshop was held on June 20. Forty people participated in the workshop. The weather cooperated nicely.

Presenters list:

Kevin Skulczyk, Griswold First Selectman

Tom Giard, Jr., Griswold EDC chair

Jack Wesa, Voluntown EDC Chair

Jean Pillo, ECCD

Chuck Lee, DEEP

George Knoecklein, NorthEast Aquatic Research
Anne Robert's Pierson, Avalonia Land Conservancy

The workshop began with an overview of economic development challenges of the communities along the Pachaug River and how they are planning to overcome them. On the water, we talked about the big ponds and aquatic weed control, water quality monitoring and the Avalonia Scola Preserve (an island in Pachaug Pond).

Non-cash donations to TRBP for the Workshop included 5 boat pilots that provided transportation on Pachaug Pond (a sixth boat pilot was on standby if needed)
Dean's Corner Restaurant donated a tray of sandwiches valued at \$60.
Arremony's Quality Bakery gave TRBP a discount and arranged the cookies on platters (not their usual protocol)
Buttonwoods Ice Cream donated double scoop cones to workshop participants after the event (each cone valued at \$5)
Frito Lay donated two boxes of their products (value \$50?)

All workshop presenters were contacted via email thanking them for participating in the event. Each cash donor was sent a letter thanking them for their donation.

Each food donor, plus the Town of Griswold and the two EDC chairs were sent Certificates of Appreciation with a cover letter, thanking them for their support of TRBP.

A slide show using images taken at the Floating Workshop was assembled and posted to the TRBP website, along with a copy of the indoor presentation. Links to these slide shows are on a new Pachaug River page on the TRBP website.

http://www.thamesriverbasinpartnership.org/Pachaug_River.htm which you can get to by clicking Floating Workshop XIV Pachaug River in the "What's New" box on the TRBP homepage.

Ideas were solicited for Floating Workshop XV.

No action taken on updating the TRBP website. Current website seems to be working better through no particular action of the TRBP coordinator. Previous glitches with web browsers seem to be remedied for the time being.

TRPB Partners presented updates on their activities compatible with the TRBP Plan of Work. These activities were compiled in a separate Summer 2014 TRBP Partners in Action Report.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2014

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

These meeting notes are considered a draft until approved at the next TRBP meeting.