



## Thames River Basin Partnership FY18 Annual Report

The TRBP held quarterly meetings in October 2017, January 2018, April 2018 and July 2018

### October 2017

- The meeting was held Knowlton Hall, Ashford, CT
- Erik Bedan of the DEEP Water Planning and Management Division and Eric Thomas, Watershed Manager in the DEEP Watershed/Nonpoint Source Management Program gave a co-presentation “Natchaug River Watershed: Overview of a Protection Plan and Healthy Watershed”.

### January 2018

- The meeting was held Connecticut Audubon Society Grassland Bird Conservation Center, Pomfret, CT.
- Amanda Ryan, the Municipal Stormwater Educator for the Center for UCONN Land-use Education and Research (CLEAR) was our featured presenter. Amanda is responsible for statewide outreach and education to communities and institutions regulated by the state Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer Systems (MS4) general permit.

### April 2018

- The meeting was held at the Pomfret Town House. Pomfret, CT.
- Chris Elphick of UCONN gave a presentation on the Connecticut Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

### July 2018

- The meeting was held at the Sea Grant Conference Room, UCONN Avery Point, Groton, CT.
- Special parking permits sponsored by CT Sea Grant.
- A special presentation was given by Chuck Toal of Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc. in honor of ALC turning 50 this year. Chuck overviewed the 50 years of successes realized by this land trust, and then updated us on their plans going forward.

All TRBP meetings include a TRBP Coordinator’s Report and updates prepared by the Partner members. Casual networking opportunities with conservation professionals over coffee and other refreshments are always included free of charge.

Partner update reports are included in the TRBP quarterly e-newsletter, the TRBP Partners in Action Report. TRBP Partners in Action Reports were posted to the TRBP page on The Last Green Valley’s website. <http://thelastgreenvalley.org/learn-protect/watershed-protection/thames-river-basin-partnership>

The Thames River Basin Partnership Floating Workshop XVIII was held on June 15, 2018.

- The focus of this year’s workshop was “River Continuity in the Greater Thames River Watershed.”
  - The Workshop was held at Project Oceanology, Avery Point, Groton Connecticut.
  - The keynote speaker was Brain Murphey of CT DEEP, speaking on best culvert designs and the Moosup River Flow Restoration project.
  - On-water component took place on the Thames River aboard the Envirolab and included a hands on experience with benthic sampling and water quality monitoring.
  - Total participation in TRBP FW 2018 was 45 people, including presenters
  - All participants completed a survey to solicit input on the Thames River Basin Partnership Plan of Work update.
  - A workshop summary was posted at <http://thelastgreenvalley.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/TRBP18-FW-summary.pdf>.

#### Other TRBP activities

- Applied for and received a \$500 grant from the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut to hold a series of meetings focused on developing an updated TRBP Plan of Work.
  - Although the meetings were poorly attended, the organization gained publicity through a mailing to each municipality within the Thames River watershed.
- Drafted an updated TRBP Plan of Work for 2018- 2021.
- Sponsored a June 2, 2018 TRBP Paddle on Poquetanuck Cove in celebration of the Avalonia Land Conservancy 50th anniversary, TLGV’s Spring Outdoors and CT Forest and Parks Trails Day.
- Developed a scholarship program with funds provided by the Chelsea Groton Foundation small grant (\$500) for 20 TRBP Floating Workshop XVIII scholarships.
  - Through this FW scholarship program and other outreach, 23 people attended the TRBP Floating Workshop for the first time.
- Applied for and received a \$3000 grant through the Rivers Alliance of Connecticut to develop a new TRBP website that is ADA compliant.
  - A Request for Proposals was drafted by the website committee.
  - A contractor was selected to begin the website work.
- Maintained the TRBP Facebook Page, posting partners updates as they come available, especially RCPP project updates to fulfill the agreements for in-kind project support.

Funding support the TRBP Coordinator is in part provided through a cooperative agreement between The Last Green Valley and the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District.