



Thames River Basin Partnership Partners in Action Quarterly Report

Summer 2015

Volume 35

The Thames River watershed includes the Five Mile, French, Moosup, Natchaug, Pachaug, Quinebaug, Shetucket, Willimantic, and Yantic Rivers and all their tributaries. We're not just the "Thames main stem."

Greetings from the [Thames River Basin Partnership](#). Once again this quarter our partners have proven their ability to work cooperatively on projects compatible with the [TRBP Workplan](#) and in support of our common mission statement to share organizational resources and to develop a regional approach to natural resource protection. I hope you enjoy reading about these activities as much as I enjoy sharing information about them with you. For more information on any of these updates, just click on the blue website hyperlinks in this e-publication, but be sure to come back to finish reading the rest of the report.

*Jean Pillo, Watershed Conservation Project Manager
Eastern Connecticut Conservation District
And TRBP Coordinator*

Special Presentation

If you missed our July 2015 TRBP summer meeting hosted by Project Oceanology in Groton, CT, then you missed a presentation given by Dan Mullins, Executive Director of the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District (ECCD). Connecticut has five conservation districts, all established by state statute. Each conservation district operates as a standalone non-profit organization focused on soil and water conservation. The service area of the ECCD encompasses thirty-six municipalities covering Windham and New London counties and part of Tolland County. The ECCD territory overlaps significantly with the greater Thames River watershed area. Dan overviewed many recently completed, ongoing and upcoming projects upon which the District has been focused. The varied projects include water pollution track down surveys that are used to develop watershed-based plans for improving water quality, retrofit projects to reduce stormwater runoff in urban settings, and multiple projects to install best management practices for reducing non-point source pollution on area farms, both large and small. ECCD works with many partners including the CT DEEP, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, The Last Green Valley and others to fulfill its mission. For more information on ECCD, visit its website at www.ConserveCT.org/Eastern.

TRBP Updates

Floating Workshop XV took place on June 19, 2015. The event was hosted by Old Sturbridge Village and focused on the upper Quinebaug River. A total of 34 people, including presenters, participated in this year's event. This year's keynote speaker was Neil Fennessey, director of

HYSR, a private consulting company which conducted a study of the Quinebaug River funded by Millennium Power as a condition of approval for obtaining a permit to withdraw cooling water from the river. Neil's talk, "History Helping Science in the Quinebaug River Study," explained significant historical impacts to river flow in the upper Quinebaug River, from damming the river to power the early industrial revolution, to flood control after the major flood of 1955. Two river restoration projects funded by Millennium Power were also highlighted. The Hamant Brook project was reviewed by Todd Richards of MA DEP. The Moosup River flow restoration project was overviewed by Eric Thomas of CT DEEP. After the indoor presentation, workshop guests were given a special guided tour of Old Sturbridge Village including the Mill Village area, the River Walk and a boat tour of the mill pond.

An optional morning paddle on the Quinebaug River Trail was organized by The Last Green Valley and featured the first segment of the [Quinebaug River Water Trail](#) from Holland Pond to the Brimfield Dam. The National Park Service has recognized several segments of the Quinebaug River in both Massachusetts and Connecticut as National Recreation Trails. Seventeen paddlers enjoyed that experience before the formal workshop.

Click this link to view a short PowerPoint showing highlights from [TRBP Floating Workshop XV](#).

The TRBP is seeking people with WordPress website experience who are willing to serve on the website update committee. The TRBP website www.TRBP.org was created using software that is no longer supported by the manufacturer. The TRBP website is not only a valuable tool for anyone seeking information on natural resources in the greater Thames River watershed but also a means to introduce new people and organizations to the Partnership. Please contact [Jean Pillo](#) if you can assist with this project.

The Thames River Basin Partnership now has a [Facebook](#) account. This account will be used for the more immediate release of upcoming events sent to the TRBP for distribution by Partner organizations. If you are a Facebook user, be sure to log on and "Like" this page to get these notifications, plus upcoming meeting and workshop announcements.

Partner Reports

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has awarded The Last Green Valley (TLGV) a \$400,000 Regional Conservation Partnership Project (RCPP) grant. For this four year initiative, TLGV will be partnering with ECCD, NRCS, and the CT Resource Conservation and Development Area's AGvocate Program to improve soil health and water quality. The partners will recruit agricultural producers willing to employ no- or low-till, healthy soil strategies and other best management practices to reduce their costs while reducing runoff from cultivated fields. As a part of this project, there will be a modified edge-of-field water quality monitoring program to help demonstrate the value of these practices. The TRBP will be assisting with outreach during this project through its newsletter, meetings, and social media outreach.

TLGV hosted a meeting of area land trust representatives in April 2015. Bill Labich of the [Highstead Foundation](#) overviewed the advantages of developing a regional conservation plan through the Thames River Basin Partnership. If this strategy is adopted, funding may be available through the Highstead Foundation to support early organizational efforts.

TLGV Walktober calendars are in the process of being distributed. This year is the 25th year of efforts to promote the National Heritage Corridor through interesting and informative activities sponsored by many businesses and organizations in the area. Click [here](#) to access this guide online.

TLGV's [Explore Guide](#) is also available as paper booklets, or you can download an e-copy from their website at <http://thelastgreenvalley.org/explore-the-last-green-valley>.

TLGV Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program is actively involved in its ninth season. This year, nine HOBO temperature data loggers were set out in locations not previously monitored by the CT DEEP. These streams were also on a list of priority sites for the River Bioassessment by Volunteer (RBV) program. Where field conditions are appropriate, streams will be monitored using both methods with the goal of locating potential cold water habitat.

TLGV Water Quality Monitoring volunteers have also been assisting with sampling rivers and streams to assess them for recreational water quality standards. Volunteers were recruited, trained and assigned to assist ECCD with a bacteria track down survey in the French River watershed in Thompson, CT. Others were involved with collecting samples at nine boat launches along the Connecticut portion of the Quinebaug River Trail. At the end of this project, report cards on water quality will be produced for each location.

Several lakes in The Last Green Valley were monitored using equipment supplied by TLGV. Amos Lake and Avery Pond in Preston, CT will be sampled mid-summer by volunteers. Additional volunteers will be assessing Webster Lake, and several lakes and ponds in Charlton, MA with support by TLGV. TLGV volunteers will also assist ECCD with monitoring in Roseland Lake and its tributaries in Woodstock, CT. The French River Connection will continue to monitor the French River in Massachusetts.

After years of background work by a coalition of environmental groups, academics, and Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) staff, culminating in this year's legislative proposal by Governor Dannel P. Malloy, the newly enacted HB 6839, An Act Concerning a Long Island Sound Blue Plan and Resource and Use Inventory, was signed by the Governor on June 19th and went into effect on July 1, 2015. Based on an initiative introduced last year by The Nature Conservancy, this legislation creates a committee of scientists, advocates, policy makers, business representatives, municipal leaders, fishermen, marine trades representatives, and other stakeholders from Connecticut. The committee will work with New York to catalog the Sound's numerous resources, inventory how they and the Sound are currently used and enjoyed, and plan for the future.

Neal Hagstrom of the CT DEEP Inland Fishery Division organized an angler survey on the Quinebaug starting with Opening Day of trout season. The survey is designed to determine the

number of anglers fishing while boating on the river. The first part of the survey was to get an estimate of the number of boats on the water. They broke the river into 4 one-hour count zones. Several data sources were used to get estimates, including “instantaneous” boat/hour counts by clerks sitting at boat launches, observed number of boats seen by survey clerks while doing their interview routes, numbers of boaters seen while canoeing through a section to get shore fisherman expansion counts and anecdotal counts of boaters seen by anglers fishing from a single point for longer time periods (usually an hour or more). Putting all these different data sources together they were able to get between 32-38 counts per zone. Below are the initial numbers. They represent a low ball estimate because not all sections of the river were visible at any given time. This is the boating activity that was observed and cross verified between count methods. In addition, over 100 boater interviews were conducted to gather data for a distance travel economics analysis for the boater’s consumer surplus of the resource. A quick scan of the data looks like the boaters were primarily coming from a narrow area within 10 miles of the river. There was almost no boating activity Monday through Thursday. There was also at least one large “float/paddle” charity event that involved over a 100 boaters. That was in Zone 3 and is not included in the estimated usage. The final update of this project is anticipated to be complete by early fall. Boats included canoes, kayaks and john boats. There were some john boats with motors in Zones 3 and 4 that were coming upstream from the Butts Bridge Launch.

Quinebaug River Boating usage April 15th-June 15th

	Number of Counts	Estimated Number Of Trips	Hours of Boating
Zone 1-Quinebaug to West. Thompson	32	182	545
Zone 2-Putnam to Rt. 101.	34	179	536
Zone 3 Riverside Park to Quinebaug Hatchery	35	231	694
Zone 4 Rt 14 to Butts Bridge)	38	176	527
	Totals	768	2,302

Notes on usage:

- The majority of activity was Fri-Sun between 10 AM and 3 PM.
- There was a marked drop in boats on the water after 4pm, but some usage.
- Next to no usage before 8 am.

In July, DEEP officially received funds for Phase 1 of the multi-parcel Whip-poor-will Woods Project in Stafford and Union. DEEP Forestry staff have started working on the first parcel. Dan Peracchio is the new State Forest Planner and Forest Legacy Program (FLP) Coordinator. Dan said It was determined that DEEP would start with the largest parcel, the Hubbell property which is 775 acres in the western part of Stafford off of Hampden Road. This parcel straddles the Scantic-Willimantic regional watershed divide, and is adjacent to Shenipsit State Forest lands. This first FLP phase received \$2,505,000 in federal funds and if there is money remaining

after the Hubbell property is finished, DEEP will move on to one of the other parcels. Five of the 6 other parcels are within the Willimantic River watershed, including Ellis Brook (Edson Brook) and Roaring Brook sub-basins. There is a highly ranked funding application in for the national FY2016 FLP pool to continue funding this FLP project area, and it may be included in final Congressional budget passage, depending on the extent of any funding reductions. As a reminder, this project is located within a prioritized forest conservation region identified within the CT Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy report (aka Forest Action Plan, 2010). The MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership region also overlaps these targeted forest lands. Successful use of these federal funds to acquire conservation easements from willing owners of working forest lands will provide strong conservation and watershed protection support for headwaters of two regional watersheds – the Scantic and the Willimantic.

DEEP Watershed/NPS Management Program – Section 319 NPS Grant Round (2015): There were 18 applications submitted for consideration, with 6 being submitted from the greater Thames River Basin area, and 2 statewide proposals with greater Thames area involvement. DEEP has submitted a list of prioritized projects to our US EPA funding program for review and approval, following a recent federal funding rescission to the original EPA state award. Selected applicants should be receiving notice in the near future. DEEP was behind schedule in developing this 2015 grant round, so it is coming up close to the next annual grant round announcement for the FY2016, with a Request For Proposals posting expected by the end of this summer- check on the CT DEEP website for more information at www.ct.gov/deep/watershed .

DEEP Open Space and Watershed Lands Acquisition Grant Program (Spring 2015): There are 3 applications from the greater Thames River basin region that are under final DEEP review before award announcements are made. They are located in the towns of Hampton, Groton and Mansfield. A total of 17 applications from across Connecticut were submitted in this particular grant round. In the previous grant round (2014), 30 applications were submitted from across Connecticut and 5 were awarded to applicants within the greater Thames River basin area (Coventry, Groton, Sprague, Stafford and Tolland).

Connecticut Green Plan (2015): This statewide open space acquisition and protection plan is under a revision process. The current status is that a draft plan outline has been published, and can be found at this [link](#). TRBP participants are encouraged to review and submit any additional comments very soon before the full working draft version is out for review.

Remember to visit the [Connecticut State Swimming Area Water Quality Report](#) while making plans to visit public swimming areas in Connecticut's fresh and salt water areas monitored by DEEP's Water Quality Monitoring program.

For anyone who has not ventured into our woods this summer, Connecticut has been met with a significant increase in gypsy moth caterpillar sightings and some oak tree defoliation and destruction. Click [here](#) to read a recent DEEP press release on the issue. One interesting side note of personal interest – there seems to be a big increase in cuckoo bird species sightings – a voracious hairy caterpillar eater.

CT DEEP Airline Trail Construction Update - Lori Lindquist and her team continue to progress with the trail resurfacing project. In Pomfret topsoil was removed from the Brooklyn road trail approaches, stump removal was completed, the old gate on the north side of Brooklyn road was removed and a new gate was installed closer to the road. Two sections of post and rail fence were added and a 3 car parking area on Brooklyn road was created. A new gate was installed on the section just south of Route 44. The crew cleaned up excess material on the Route 97 section and used that for fill on the Lewis Road ramp. They cut and cleared 2.3 miles of drainage ditches and added 2.3 miles of 1 ¼" process gravel from Brooklyn Road in Pomfret to Kenyon Road in Hampton, and added gravel to the Lewis Road ramps to make the slope 10%. In Pomfret, there is now a total of 5.4 miles of process base installed from Pomfret Station south to the Pomfret/Hampton line, and a total of 1.4 miles of gravel installed in Hampton. The crew added 2" stone in some spots that were too low and very wet, to bring the trail up to grade between Rt. 97 and Lewis Road. The entire 5.7 miles in Pomfret and the 1.4 mile section in Hampton have been compacted with a roller.

Updated maps are now on the DEEP website which show existing road re-routes:

http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2716&q=479336&deepNav_GID=1650#map

They are asking for feedback or the need to edit these maps. They are working on similar maps for the southern section of the trail and for both sections, posting maps that are geo-referenced so folks with gps software can find their locations in real time.

The USDA NRCS works with farmers to implement practices to reduce non-point source runoff. Their 2015 contracting is completed. They developed 40 new contracts in southeast Connecticut including portions of Middlesex County. There will be five easement closings in the next few months for properties with either prime agricultural soils or forested land. New applications are being taken on a continuous basis. For more information, contact your county NRCS office.

USDA NRCS will continue to support the Regional Conservation Partnership Program. The next round of RCPP projects will be focusing on encouraging conservation easements on privately owned significant forest parcels. Contact Joyce Purcell at the NRCS State Office for more details.

For those of you that want to learn about soil health but can't find time to sit at your computer or attend a workshop, there are now downloadable Soil Health Podcasts produced by the USDA NRCS. Make the best use of your travel time to and from meetings. To download Soil Health To-Go podcasts, click [here](#). If you are more of a visual learner, visit this [website](#) to view a series of short videos on soil health.

The USDA Farm Service Agency administers the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP is a voluntary program that allows eligible landowners to receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving plans for eligible farmland for a contracted period of time. Under the program, farmers and ranchers plant grasses and trees in fields and along streams or rivers. The plantings prevent soil and nutrients from washing into waterways, reduce soil erosion that may otherwise contribute to poor air and water quality, and provide valuable habitat for wildlife. Through this program, a small farm in Chaplin recently

enrolled to protect critical acreage along the Natchaug River, a Trophy Trout Stream, from polluted runoff. For more information about the CRP, go to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/CRPis30>.

The Eastern Connecticut Conservation District (ECCD) has had a successful quarter with completing and/or initiating projects.

- In late April, more than 250 perennials, shrubs and trees were planted to improve over 500 feet of the riparian buffer area along the Natchaug River at Lauter Park in Willimantic. This project was a recommendation in the [Lower Natchaug River Abbreviated Watershed Based Plan](#). Funding support for this project came from an environmental penalty fund through the Rivers Alliance of Connecticut. Volunteer assistance was provided by Eastern Connecticut State University volunteers as part of a Town Wide Town Pride initiative.
- Four tree filters were installed in April and May along Pennsylvania Avenue in East Lyme. [Tree filters](#) are a modern way to infiltrate stormwater into the ground and to use natural processes to filter out the contaminants. They are particularly useful in urban settings. ECCD was able to incorporate this stormwater retrofit opportunity in cooperation with the town of East Lyme as part of a STEAP-funded streetscape project. The funding for the tree filter project was provided in part by an EPA Clean Water Act § 319 grant through the CT DEEP.
- An additional tree filter project is in the late planning stages within the City of Groton. Seven units will be installed in the City Hall parking lot and Washington Park. This project is also being funded in part by a 319 grant. Reducing stormwater runoff flowing into Birch Plain Creek was a recommendation of the [Baker Cove Track Down Survey and Abbreviated Watershed Based Plan](#). This project is expected to be completed by late September.
- ECCD staff have begun investigating sources of *E. coli* bacteria in the French River watershed in Thompson, CT. A bacteria track down survey has been completed in cooperation with The Last Green Valley Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program. The outcomes of the water quality study will be incorporated into the development of an abbreviated watershed based plan. This project is being funded in part by a 319 grant.
- ECCD staff have begun an assessment of Roseland Lake and its watershed in Woodstock, CT. Roseland Lake is eutrophic to highly eutrophic. Summer blue-green algae blooms are a concern. Monthly lake monitoring was initiated in spring and will continue through early next spring. Tributary sampling will also be conducted to determine the load of nutrients impacting the water quality in the lake. ECCD is partnering with multiple organizations on this project including the Town of Putnam, which withdraws drinking water from Little River downstream of Roseland Lake, the town of Woodstock, the CT Department of Public Health Drinking Water Division, Professor Mauri Pelto of Nichols College, Professor Peter Siver of Connecticut College, Richard Canavan of CME Associates of Woodstock and the USGS. Using data collected during this project, a model will be developed to demonstrate how nutrients cycle in the lake. This model will be used to develop a lake and watershed management plan. Funding for this project is being provided in part by a 319 grant and the Town of Putnam.
- As part of a 319 funded Small Farms Assistance project, a covered manure storage facility has been constructed at The Learning Clinic in Brooklyn, CT. The Learning Clinic maintains several horses on their property.

- Engineered plans are nearly completed and a solar powered aerated dairy mortalities composting facility is expected to be installed by late fall at a farm in Woodstock. This project is being supported in part by a 319 grant.
- The Amos Lake Abbreviated Watershed Based Plan has been completed and accepted by DEEP. This concludes a multiyear investigation. Recommended implementation efforts are already underway in the watershed by the Amos Lake Association. This project was funded in part by a 319 grant.
- The final number of diadromous fish using the Hallville Dam fishway show a decline from the previous year. A total of 32 alewife, 5 sea run brown trout and one American eel were recorded. Steve Gephard of the DEEP Marine Fisheries Program reported dramatic decreases throughout the Connecticut and Rhode Island this year. Offshore fishing is suspected in this decline. ECCD continues to work with DEEP on restoring the potential for migrating fish migrate further into the Poquetanuck Brook watershed. The Straight Pond Dam in Preston is the next obstacle for river continuity and the permit process to breach this dam is underway. It is expected work will be completed in early October.

[Save Ocean Beach](#) is a non-profit organization focused on Ocean Beach Park in New London. After a fourteen year effort, the last component of a nature walk along Alewife Cove was completed in May 2015 when the [Highland Avenue Trail](#) was finished. Ocean Beach Park is owned by the City of New London. The City celebrated the 75th anniversary of the park in July 2015.

Marc Cohen of the [Atlantic States Rural Water and Wastewater Association](#) will be participating in the development of a State of Connecticut Water Plan as part of the Water Planning Council Advisory Committee.

[Avalonia Land Conservancy](#) is proud to report that a pair of osprey were observed building a nest on a nesting platform on their Poquetanuck Cove Preserve in Preston, CT. No eggs or young have been observed yet.

As part of the TLGV Walktober events, Avalonia Land Conservancy will be hosting a hike in Griswold on their Walden Meadow Preserve. For more details, please visit the [TLGV Walktober Guide](#).

The [Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited](#) (TVTU) organized two river clean ups this year; one in the Yantic River and the other in the Moosup River. In Moosup, they reported removing two dump trucks full of garbage, including many tires. The Plainfield Public Works Department participated in the Moosup River cleanup by picking up and disposing of the waste removed from the river. The Last Green Valley provided funds to support these efforts.

The TVTU Conservation Committee has formed a Conservation Committee to plan projects for the Shetucket River, Natchaug River Watersheds (including their tributaries) and other areas of concern. If you are interested in improving our watersheds please contact [Jim Smith](#) at 860-608-0028 or [Sal DeCarli](#) at (860) 420-7641. They are currently seeking funding to support the restoration of the Versailles Pond fish ladder that was damaged by a flood.

TVTU volunteers also assisted with installation of Wild Trout Management Area signage in Merrick Brook in Scotland, CT.

The [Connecticut Envirothon](#) is a program to train high school students about natural resources, and then test them on their knowledge at a statewide competition. Conservation professionals from government agencies, educational institutions, and private environmental consulting companies and non-profit organizations organize four to five workshops a year to assist with the training. This year, the Connecticut College Arboretum hosted the event in June. Coginchaug High School was the State Champion this spring and went on to the North American Envirothon event representing Connecticut. Several high schools from eastern Connecticut participated in this program, but more are welcome. For more information about the Connecticut Envirothon, or to learn how to sign up your school, please visit their website <http://www.ctenvirothon.org>.

The next Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) general meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2015 from 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. in room 331, at the UConn Student Union, Storrs campus, Storrs, CT. The CIPWG Steering Committee will meet in the morning, followed by the general CIPWG meeting in the afternoon. Scott Williams from The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station will present a talk on “The Role of Deer in Spreading Invasive Plants and Preventing Native Plant Regeneration”. Success stories with invasive plants, invasive plant updates, and an Open Forum will also be on the agenda for the general meeting. The meeting is free and open to the public. Additional details, to be provided at a later date, will be posted on the [CIPWG](#) website.

News from the Municipalities

The Town of Plainfield formally established an Agriculture Commission. Now only two towns in Windham County are without an Agriculture Commission.

The Town of Ledyard is focusing on updating their Plan of Conservation and Development (PoCD). The Conservation Commission is working with abutting towns to incorporate more specific language regarding their greenway plans, specifically the Tri-Town Trail. They are also working to incorporate outside plan language directly into the PoCD, including the Poquetanuck Cove Conservation Action Plan.

The Town of Ledyard does not have a full agriculture committee, but does have an Agriculture Subcommittee of the Economic Development Commission. The Ledyard Conservation Commission (CC) is seeking recommendations for agriculture support to include in the PoCD.

The Ledyard CC is continuing its focus on the riparian buffer demonstration project at Poquetanuck Cove. Its members have developed pamphlets on coastal landscaping as part of their outreach effort.

The Town of Hampton, CT Green Team hosted a series of environmentally themed movies at Goodwin State Forest over the summer. ECCD’s Jean Pillo was invited to give a talk about water quality and quantity issues prior to viewing the film “Flow”.

The Town of Brooklyn is working with the Atlantic State Rural Water and Wastewater Association to protect a potential drinking water source and develop an aquifer overlay map.

Other news

Kelly Pfeiffer is serving as this year's Connecticut Coastal Cleanup Coordinator at CFE/Save the Sound. This year will be the 30th Annual International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) and she is looking to continue making an impact. With 8 million metric tons of plastic alone making its way into the oceans each year, the effort needs all the help you can give! The International Coastal Cleanup takes place each year during the months of September and October, with the "big day" or ICC official recognition day, on Saturday, September 19, 2015. If you are interested in aiding Long Island Sound and our oceans by leading a cleanup, please send an email with your name and potential site you're interested in to kpfeiffer@savethesound.org.

In an historic step for the protection of clean water, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers finalized the Clean Water Rule to clearly protect from pollution and degradation the streams and wetlands that form the foundation of the nation's water resources.

The rule ensures that waters protected under the Clean Water Act are more precisely defined and predictably determined, making permitting less costly, easier, and faster for businesses and industry. The rule is grounded in law and the latest science, and is shaped by public input. The rule does not create any new permitting requirements for agriculture and maintains all exemptions and exclusions. A Clean Water Act permit is only needed if a water is going to be polluted or destroyed. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/cleanwaterrule.

The Workbook, "Being Prepared For Climate Change: A Workbook for Developing Risk-Based Adaptation Plans", is a product of the EPA Climate Ready Estuaries Program. It provides much needed guidance for any place-based organization about how to conduct risk-based climate change vulnerability assessments and develop adaptation action plans. It is an ideal tool for communities or organizations that manage places, watersheds, or coastal environments. Click [here](#) to access the workbook.

The EPA has published updated national recommended water quality criteria for the protection of human health for 94 chemical pollutants. These 2015 criteria reflect the latest scientific information and EPA policies, including updated body weight, drinking water consumption rate, fish consumption rate, bioaccumulation factors, health toxicity values, and relative source contributions. The Agency accepted written scientific views from the public on the draft updated human health criteria from May to August 2014 and has published responses to those comments. EPA water quality criteria serve as recommendations to states and tribes authorized to establish water quality standards for surface waters under the Clean Water Act. For more information, click [here](#).

The Webster Lake Association from Webster, MA will receive \$125,000 from a line item in the Massachusetts State Budget to support their aquatic invasive species control program.

If you would like your organization's efforts included in the next edition of the TRBP Partners in Action Report, consider attending one of our quarterly meetings. It includes a [TRBP Plan of Work](#) activity reporting session, which is an informal "round the table" discussion of Partner activities. It is a great time to network with like-focused organizations. All meetings begin at 9:30 AM. Generally, the TRBP meet quarterly on the 3rd Tuesday of the month

The next meeting of the Thames River Basin Partnership will be held October 20, 2015 beginning at 9:30 AM. Location for this meeting is to be determined.

Contact [Jean Pillo](#) at (860) 928-4948 for more information or to be added to the TRBP distribution list.

If you are not already on the e-distribution list for this publication, contact [Jean Pillo](#) by email and request to be added, or you can download the most current version of this quarterly publication from the [TRBP website](#).

The Thames River Basin Partnership is a voluntary, cooperative effort to share resources, and strives to develop a regional approach to resource protection. The Partnership is made up of a variety of agencies, organizations, municipalities, educational institutions, companies, and individuals interested in the environmental health of the greater Thames River basin. Partial funding support for FY 15 for TRBP Coordinator time has been provided by The Last Green Valley. Additional sources of funding are being sought to continue the TRBP Coordinator position. Please consider making a donation to the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District and designate it to support the Thames River Basin Partnership Coordinator position.