



# Thames River Basin Partnership

## July 21, 2015

### Meeting Notes

**Attendance:** Jean Pillo, Dan Mullins, ECCD; Anne Roberts Pierson, Avalonia Land Conservancy; Lois Bruinooge, TLGV; Marc Cohen, ASRWVA; Javier Cruz, NRCS; Dave Schroeder, Robin Franklin, Ledyard CC; Sam Alexander, NECCOG; Louise Fabrykeiwicz, Save Ocean Beach; Dave Goodrich, Hampton IWC/Gov. Huntington Trust; Bud McAllister, Partners for Healthy Communities; Jackie Preston, Thames Valley Trout Unlimited.

The meeting was held at the Project Oceanology in Groton, CT.

Meeting notes for April 21, 2015 were reviewed and approved by group consensus.

### Special Presentation

A presentation was given by Dan Mullins, Executive Director of the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District, who overviewed multiple projects that were recently completed, in progress or under consideration for funding support. The projects demonstrated the close match of the Mission of the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District and the focus on the Thames River Basin Partnership. Projects highlighted include many focused on the reduction of non-point source pollution from urban and agricultural runoff, but also emphasized ECCD's role in restoring diadromous fish passage in the Poquetanuck Brook watershed. For more information on ECCD and their ongoing projects, please click [here](#), or follow them on Facebook.

### TRBP Financial Report

Date	Deposit or Withdrawal	Memo	Account Balance
4/21/2015		Beginning Balance	2,311.63
5/5/2015	-33.39	April meeting refreshments	2278.24
	750.00	Floating workshop registrations	3023.24
	35.00	Floating workshop donations	3063.24
	-782.00	Old Sturbridge Village FW expenses	2281.24
		<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>2281.24</b>

The financial report was approved by consensus.

### TRBP Coordinator's Report

The TRBP Floating Workshop held on June 21, 2015 at Old Sturbridge Village. A total of 34 people, including presenters, participated in this year's event. An optional complementary morning paddle was sponsored by TLGV. The morning paddle from Holland Pond to the Brimfield Dam along the first designated segment of the Quinebaug River National Recreational Trail preceded the Floating Workshop. 17 people participated in the paddle. A slide show summary of the morning paddle and Floating Workshop was presented at the meeting. It has also been uploaded to the TRBP website.

Through the ECCD non-profit status, a request for \$3000 was made to the Chelsea Groton Foundation for the purpose of transferring the TRBP website to a new platform and updating the content. \$500 from the TRBP passbook account was offered as match. The request was partially funded at \$250. Due to the short project funding period and the lack of additional match to complete the project, ECCD politely refused the funds.

TRBP uses GoDaddy to host the website. ECCD was notified by GoDaddy that they would be moving the website over to a more secure site but that certain features of the obsolete software may no longer function afterward. It appears that the website survived the transition, but if any features no longer function, that may be the cause.

A meeting was hosted by TLGV on April 30, 2015 to overview the benefits of developing a Regional Conservation Plan for land trusts and town land acquisition boards within the Thames River watershed basin to utilize when applying for open space funding. This concept is compatible with Goal 1, Action Item - Accelerate the pace of conservation by participating in the development of a regional conservation strategy. Bill Labich of Highstead Foundation reviewed the merits of open space planning on a regional level and promoted that the existing organization within TRBP would simplify the process of becoming an RCP organization if the organization supported moving in that direction. Funding and technical assistance may be available through Highstead Foundation to support it. As TRBP coordinator, J. Pillo overviewed what the TRBP was, distributed TRBP fact sheets, our shared mission and goals promoted through our approved Plan of Work. The meeting was attended by land trust representatives from Massachusetts to Long Island Sound within the greater Thames River watershed basin.

### **TRBP Business**

TRBP is listed as a participating partner for the RCPP project. For the TLGV led RCPP projects and other outreach needs, a proposal was made to establish a TRBP Facebook and Twitter account to facilitate outreach in a more simplified manner than website updates on the calendar page. The concept was approved by group consensus.

The Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut will be issuing an RFP for projects with an environmental focus in the near future. The Partners supported the concept of applying for funding to support the website upgrade as well as a Thames River themed Floating Workshop theme for 2016. A focus on the Thames River Maritime Heritage Park with possible water taxi service between locations was discussed as a possible theme.

### **Partner Reports**

TRBP Partner Reports were compiled into the Thames River Basin Partnership Partners in Action Report.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2015. Meeting location and the special presentation TBD.

Meeting notes prepared by Jean Pillo, ECCD and TRBP Coordinator. These meeting notes are considered draft until approved at the next TRBP meeting.