



## **Thames River Basin Partnership**

### **October 17, 2017**

### **Meeting Notes (Draft)**

#### **Attendance:**

Jean Pillo, Dan Mullins, ECCD; Lois Bruinooge, TLGV; Eric Thomas, Erik Bedan, DEEP; Marc Cohen, ASRWWA; Lisanne Tholl; Jessy Raymond, NRCS;

The meeting was held at Knowlton Hall, Ashford, CT.

Meeting notes for July 19, 2017 were approved by consensus.

#### **Special Presentation:**

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”. The Natchaug River is eastern Connecticut’s benchmark stream for water quality. In January 2016, the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District received an award letter indicating they were selected for a healthy watershed initiative grant from the DEEP to develop an anti-degradation plan for the river system. This is the first such project in Connecticut. DEEP has been carefully deciding what the structure of a healthy watershed plan should include in order for the final plan to have the greatest success. The plan should include the following:

- an assessment of the current health of the Natchaug River system,
- an assessment of the vulnerabilities and threats to the river system,
- an assessment and prioritization of watershed protection needs,
- the development of a healthy watershed plan in collaboration with DEEP, including Action Plans and anti-degradation policies and select local Plans of Conservation and Development strategies,
- a schedule and milestones to guide implementation, and
- defined plan ownership and endorsed Partner Roles

Once final project expectations are ironed out by DEEP, ECCD will get a contract and begin focus on this project.

#### **TRBP Financial Report**

Beginning balance \$2127.44

8/22/17- July meeting refreshments (-14.05)

8/30/17 – journal entry corrections (+29.91)

Ending balance \$2143.30

#### **TRBP Coordinator’s Report**

The TRBP website is still static.

Applied to the Jewett City Savings Bank Foundation for \$2250 – expect an answer soon.

The Rivers Alliance of Connecticut RFP due October 27. Spoke with Rose and was encouraged to apply with a focus on capacity building, but the highest priority for their funds is for water quality improvement implementation projects.

- ADA compatible website BMP go into effect next year. Not sure what that means for TRBP.
- TRBP is listed as an active partner in the 3 Regional Conservation Partnership Projects with an outreach role. The website is a critical tool for providing outreach on these projects.

Facebook updates –

Still only 36 followers. TLGV, DEEP and Army Corp of Engineers like the page, so info gets out to a larger audience. Not a big time commitment and an easy way to share partner updates.

TRBP outreach update:

Met with Chuck Toal of Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc. to explain the benefits of attending TRBP functions. Avalonia will be celebrating a big anniversary (50) year next year and is looking for “gifts” of events to celebrate this milestone. With support of the TRBP (and my boss and funders), I would like to schedule a paddle on Poquetanuck Cove on Trails Day weekend in 2018.

I was unable to develop a tri-panel display for RCPP outreach before Celebrating Agriculture Day due to other time commitments.

Floating Workshop XVIII- a potential theme could be river continuity, with a focus on the Millennium Power Plant funded restoration projects in the Moosup River (and Hammant Brook in Sturbridge, MA)

To potentially increase participation and provide a guaranteed funding base to work with, I applied for a small grant (\$500) to offer \$25 scholarships to municipal officials from the Chelsea Groton Foundation. The cost of the insurance rider and the expectation of lunch with the workshop keeps making the price increase. Grant status pending.

TRBP Plan of Work will expire in April 2018. Review of current plan of work and discuss actions and new priorities. Wish to have draft prepared by January or April to go into effect in April.

Next meeting will be on January 16, 2018. Special presentation and meeting location TBD.

## **Partner Reports**

TRBP Partner Reports will be compiled into the Thames River Basin Partnership Partners in Action Report available for download from The Last Green Valley website after is it completed.

Next meeting will be on January 16, 2017. (location TBD).

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