



Thames River Basin Partnership

July 17, 2018

Meeting Notes (Draft)

Attendance:

Jean Pillo, Dan Mullins; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP, Sam Alexander, SCCOG, Hallie Schwab, Highstead; Chuck Toal, Avalonia Land Conservancy; Bill Lucey, Save the Sound; Nancy Balcolm, CT Sea Grant; Lois Bruinooge, The Last Green Valley

The meeting was held at the Connecticut SeaGrant Office at UCONN Avery Point. SeaGrant also sponsored the parking fees for the meeting.

Special Presentation:

Chuck Toal, Avalonia Land Conservancy's development and programs director gave a presentation on the 50 years of accomplishments of ALC as a regional land trust. ALC is focused on 22 towns in southeastern Connecticut. ALC, which oversees 4000 acres of preserved land, achieved accreditation in 2017. Their success is thanks to a working board of directors and the establishment of town committees to focus on smaller areas. Their current focus in being more selective on land acquisition, building blocks of open space and building an endowment fund to steward the land going forward.

TRBP Financial Report

Beginning balance \$ 2,525.69

date	Activity	Amount	Balance
	Floating Workshop registration fees 20 @ \$25	\$500	\$3025.69
	Cash donations	\$140	\$3165.69
	Plan of Work meeting expenses	-\$45.92	\$3119.77
	Plan of Work postage	-\$30.00	\$3089.77
	Floating Workshop meal expenses Mort't Dining Service	-\$532.00	\$2557.77
		Final balance	\$2,557.77

TRBP Coordinator's Report

- On June 2 led a 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. 13 sign ups but only 6 attended due to weather. Included current presidents of Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc.

- TRBP website update – The Rivers Alliance of CT has approved a small grant (\$3000) to support the creation of a new TRBP website. Contract is signed. RFP in development for website designers. Survey conducted during the TRBP FW18 requested input for website content.
- TRBP Plan of Work update: A \$500 mini grant was awarded by the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut supported 3 meetings where the current plan of work will be reviewed and discussed.
 - Tuesday, May 1, 2018 10 – 11 PM at the Norwich NRCS Conference Room
 - Thursday, May 3, 2018 10 – 11 AM at the Ashford Knowlton Memorial Hall
 - Monday, May 7, 2018 7 – 8 PM CT Audubon Society Grassland Bird Conservation Center, Pomfret
 - The Plan of Work meetings were poorly attended (Dan Mullins of ECCD, First Selectman of Bozrah, First Selectman of Canterbury, Charlie McCaughtry of TU and Eric Thomas of DEEP), but outreach materials developed for these meetings was mailed to all municipalities within or partially within the Thames watershed, including the Massachusetts towns. The direct mail packet included information about the upcoming Floating Workshop and the municipal scholarship program. As a result, of this outreach effort, the TRBP FW18 had 23 first time participants.
- Floating Workshop Summary
 - FW 18 was held on June 15. A total of The theme was river continuity.
 - A short Powerpoint was prepared for the website highlighting the message of the Floating Workshop
 - All FW18 participants were asked to complete a survey regarding what they would like to see included as a future focus of the TRBP.
 - The Chelsea Groton Foundation awarded ECCD/TRBP with a \$500 mini grant to support 20 municipal scholarships for public works or land use officials/commissioners.
 - The municipalities represented on the 2018 FW included Ashford, Norwich, Preston, Lebanon, Woodstock, Montville, Salem, Canterbury and the City of Groton. Several towns had multiple members. A SECOG planner who serves as ZEO to multiple towns was also invited to attend on a scholarship and two unpaid interns were given scholarships to attend.
 - Project Oceanology donated the use of the Envirolab for this year’s workshop.
 - Floating Workshop evaluation
 - 100% of those that responded felt that the \$25 workshop fee was a good value.
 - Best part of the Floating Workshop
 - 10 respondents said the Thames River Cruise
 - 15 people responded they liked the hands on activities (water testing and bottom grab sample) the best.
 - 8 people responded they liked the general content/theme
 - 7 people specified networking
 - Suggested improvements – in general, comments were positive.
 - Two people commented that they would have preferred to have the lunch later in the program.

- One person suggested we target more municipal people and less conservation professionals (choir preaching to the choir)
- One person would have liked to have seen more Thames River water quality information.
- One person suggested future FW include more hands on activities
- 6 people would have preferred better weather

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 October 16, 2018. (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.