



Thames River Basin Partnership

July 16, 2019

Meeting Notes (Draft)

Attendance: Jean Pillo, ECCD/TRBP Coordinator, Bruce Daniels, James Valuckas, TVTU; Dennis Latchum, Lebanon IWC; Anne Roberts Pierson, ECCD; Amanda Ryan, UCONN CLEAR; Dan Mullins, ECCD; Frank Maletz, HEALTHspital; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Tom Morgart, Garrett Timmons, NRCS; Bud McAllister, PHC; Lois Bruinooge, Catie Lemontangue, TLGV; Nancy Balcolm, CT Sea Grant; Molly Jacobs, Project Oceanology; Sam Alexander, SCCOG

The meeting was held at the UCONN Avery Point in the Sea Grant conference room. The Thames River Basin Partnership thanked CT Sea Grant for sponsoring the parking fees.

Special Presentation:

TRBP Financial Report

Beginning balance \$198.72

Eastern Connecticut Conservation District, Inc.
Account QuickReport
As of July 16, 2019

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Balance
					198.72
Check	05/14/2019		Jean Pillo	Postage final report-RA, mtg refresheme	-39.54 159.18
Deposit	05/24/2019		Thomas & Marie Goe Olson	Floating Workshop	50.00 209.18
Deposit	05/24/2019		Pat Monahan	Floating Workshop	25.00 234.18
Check	05/31/2019		ECCD	TRBP Floating Workshop	-125.00 109.18
Deposit	06/04/2019		Joellen Anderson	Donation from the Floating Workshop Pr	75.00 184.18
Deposit	06/11/2019		Caryn Oresky	Floating Workshop 6/14/2019	25.00 209.18
Deposit	06/11/2019		Deanna & Michael Rhodes	Floating Workshop 6/14/2019	25.00 234.18
Deposit	06/11/2019		MARC COHEN	Floating Workshop 6/14/2019	25.00 259.18
Deposit	06/11/2019		Philip Cusick	Floating Workshop 6/14/2019	25.00 284.18
Credit Card Cha	06/13/2019		Mains Country Store	Floating workshop meals	-175.14 109.04
Invoice	06/17/2019		TLGV, Inc.	TRBP Passthrough 3205 ITEM, Dennis I	225.00 334.04
Deposit	06/21/2019		Judy Rondeau	Floating Workshop 6/14/2019	25.00 359.04
Deposit	06/21/2019		Lyndon McAllister	Floating Workshop 6/14/2019	50.00 409.04
Deposit	06/21/2019		Joan Smith	Floating Workshop 6/14/2019	25.00 434.04
Deposit	06/21/2019		Kate Johnson	Floating Workshop 6/14/2019	25.00 459.04
Deposit	06/21/2019		Cash Customer	Floating Workshop 6/14/2019	25.00 484.04
Check	06/25/2019		Jean Pillo	Dollar Tree, Better Value Aldi	-71.91 412.13
Check	07/09/2019		Signore Septic Service		-80.00 332.13
			TOTAL		<u>133.41 332.13</u>
					<u>133.41 332.13</u>

ECCD submitted an invoice to the Rivers Alliance of Connecticut for \$3000 on March 1, 2018 which has not been received yet. Of that \$3000, TRBP owes ECCD \$916 from the grant funds and \$1250 from TRBP funds, or a total of \$2166. A vote at the spring meeting supported paying ECCD from the TRBP account once the funds became available.

TRBP Coordinator's Report

The TRBP website update

GoDaddy, our web hosting service provider, has been continually contacting the coordinator regarding upgrading the security status of the TRBP website. Our website consultant, Caryn Oresky, said the additional service is unnecessary because we don't do financial transactions on the site, but GoDaddy is pitching this change because they claim Google will be removing unsecured websites from their service, making our site relatively invisible to Google users.

Our current annual fee for webhosting is \$109 (plus around \$40 for the two domain names). To increase the security of the website will be an additional \$55/year, or \$112/2 years. TRBP Coordinator requests a discussion of this issue and a vote on whether to pay the additional fee for creating a secure website.

TRBP website grant status: The final report was submitted to the Rivers Alliance of CT on March 1, 2019 but payment of \$3000 has not yet been received. The contractor has been paid out of the TRBP account. The final payment to ECCD is still pending. At the April 16, 2019 meeting, the Partners voted to approve payment to ECCD the amount of \$2166. ECCD has not collected this amount from the TRBP account yet due to the hold up of payment from Rivers Alliance.

ECCD applied for a SWEP ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT for TRBP Floating Workshop Scholarship funds. The grant was declined. The Last Green Valley offered a TRBP FW scholarship for volunteers involved with their water quality monitoring program. Nine TLGV volunteers attended the workshop on that scholarship.

The TRBP Floating Workshop was held on June 14, 2019 in Bozrah, CT. The workshop focus was the Yantic River, one of the 9 regional watersheds upstream of the Thames River main stem. Two optional morning events were offered: a paddle up the Yantic River from Norwich Harbor to Uncas Leap, and a walking tour of the River walk. Both were instigated by Deanna Rhodes, the Norwich Planner. The paddle was led by Hunter Braddock (Harbor Commission member) and had five participants. The walk was led by a combination of Deanna Rhodes, City of Norwich's Director of Planning & Neighborhood Services and Executive Director of the Norwich Historical Society, Regan Minor. There were ten participants in this walk.

Keynote speaker for Floating Workshop was Neal Hagstrom of CT DEEP fisheries. He spoke at the Bozrah Town Hall on the topic of the Connecticut Trout Management Program. Following Neal's presentation, workshop participants toured a recently installed rain garden that collects runoff from the Bozrah Town Hall parking lot. The rain garden was installed by ECCD with assistance from Trout Unlimited volunteers and the Town of Bozrah public works department.

At Bozrah River Park, workshop participants enjoyed a light lunch, followed by hands on activities at 3 learning stations. The Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited set up an impressive display featuring different types of flies, a fly tying demonstration and they brought fly fishing poles for workshop participants to learn fly casting. Dennis Latchum of the Lebanon Inland Wetlands Commission and a TLGV Water Quality Monitoring volunteer, demonstrated how to do a riffle bioassessment and interpret the results. Kyle Swan, a Project Oceanology educator, brought water chemistry equipment for determining water quality in the Yantic River.

All together approximately 40 people were involved with this year's TRBP Floating Workshop, including 10 volunteers from the Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

A slide show summary of the day's events will be posted to the TRBP website.

As of 7/9/19, there are TRBP Facebook page 89 Likes and 101 Followers. Partner updates were posted 19 times on the TRBP Facebook page since April 16.

Discussion RE Website security questions Action Items

- Determine the number of site visits per month. Google analytics is a free means to determine website traffic.
- Weebly may be a less expensive host site.
- Need to form a website subcommittee to review this issue.

Partner Reports

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

Next meeting will be on October 15, 2019. (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.