



## **Thames River Basin Partnership January 21, 2020 Meeting Notes (Draft)**

**Attendance:** Jean Pillo, ECCD/TRBP Coordinator, Dan Mullins, ECCD; Frank Maletz, Partners in Healthy Communities; Dennis Latchum, Lebanon IWC; Joellen Anderson, Avalonia Land Conservancy; Sam Alexander, SCCOG; Garret Timmons, NRCS; Anne Roberts Pierson, ECCD Board member; Mary Becker, Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Gary Lussier, Thames Valley TU; Troy Quick, Windham Water Works.

The meeting was held at the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Conference Room in Norwich.

**Special Presentation:** Mary Becker of CT DEEP gave a presentation to explain how diatoms are good indicators of water pollution in fresh water/high gradient streams, especially for elevated phosphorus. There are over 20,000 species of diatoms, and some are sensitive to different environmental variables. Those that are phosphorus sensitive are used as indicator organisms. Previous studies completed by USGS scientists show seasonal variability in phosphorus concentrations. Because of their presence in the stream 24/7, diatoms are a more consistent measure of nutrient enrichment. Sampling takes place in June or July and includes scraping the diatoms off of rocks and collecting them in a bottle. A traditional water sample is also collected and analyzed for nutrient concentrations. The cost per sample sent out for diatom identification is high, but the reduction in the number of sampling events per site to complete an assessment is less when staff time and nutrient analysis for sample set are factored in. CT has been studying the use of diatoms as water quality indicators since 2002.

TRBP meeting notes from Fall 2019 were approved by consensus.

### **TRBP Coordinator Report**

The TRBP website and two domain names were renewed through Go Daddy for another year. After discussion with our website consultant and core members of the TRBP steering committee, it was decided to not pay for additional security features as the site does not have any financial transactions associated with it.

The TRBP Annual Report was drafted and submitted to TLGV. Once approved, it will be uploaded to the TRBP website.

For the January meeting, a meeting announcement was sent out through a TRBP mail chimp account as well as through a standard email. The RSVP for the mail chimp notification was TRBP@Comcast.net so I could see if people were replying through that notification. There are currently 26 people subscribed through that account. The goal is to get all TRBP followers subscribed to make sending out notifications easier going forward.

The TRBP Floating Workshop is in the early planning stages. After discussion with core members of the steering committee, it was decided the workshop should feature the Natchaug River Healthy Watershed Implementation Planning Process.

**TRBP Financial Report**

Date	Memo	Amount	Account Balance
	Starting Balance		\$1504.06
12/09/2019	Website renewal (Go Daddy)	-224.02	\$1280.04
		Account Balance	\$1280.04

Expected expenses this coming quarter will include reimbursement for TRBP meeting refreshments.

**Partner Reports**

TRBP Partner Reports were compiled into the Winter 2020 Thames River Basin Partnership Partners in Action Report available for download from TRBP website.

Next meeting will be on April 21 2020. (Location TBD).

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