



Thames River Basin Partnership

April 21, 2020

Meeting Notes (Draft)

Attendance: Jean Pillo, ECCD/TRBP Coordinator, Dan Mullins, ECCD; William Purcell, NRCS; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Lois Bruinooge, The Last Green Valley; Cindy Wright Jones; Cynthia Rabinowitz, NWCD; Dennis Latchum, Lebanon IWC; Andrew Kowalczk, Guy Foster, NY USGS; Gwen Haaland, Ashford CC; Lilian Ruiz, CT Soil and Water Council; Michelle Maitland, Groton and Niantic Watershed Committee; Sam Alexander, SCCOG; Joellen Anderson, Avalonia Land Conservancy; Bud McAllister and Frank Maletz, Partners In Healthy Communities; Therese Beaudoin, MA DEP.

This meeting was conducted online on a Zoom meeting platform to maintain compliance with Covid-19 meeting capacity restrictions. The meeting was attended by a total of 19 participants but not all were identified by name using the Zoom meeting participation list format. Apologies to anyone excluded from the attendance list.

Special Presentation:

Andrew J Kowalczk, Hydrologic Technician from the USGS New York Water Science Center, gave a presentation on Edge of Field Monitoring and Sediment Monitoring in the Genesee River Watershed, New York. Andrew and his team have been collecting concurrent edge of field and tile drainage data from the same fields in the Genesee River watershed basin in upstate New York. The research team documented differences in nutrient and sediment loss on sloped vs non-sloped fields and how the losses compared between fields with and without tile drains. Sloped fields loss more sediment during a precipitation event than non-sloped fields. Tile drained sites had less surface runoff than non-tile drained fields. Fields with tile drains lose a lot of dissolved nitrogen in the forms that dissolve in water, especially Nitrate-Nitrogen. Phosphorus losses were mostly particulate P that was associated with sediments. The project is at its midway point and will continue as adaptive management practices are installed on the fields. Good discussion followed this presentation.

TRBP meeting notes from Spring 2020 were approved by consensus.

TRBP Coordinator Report

TRBP Financial Report: There was limited activity this quarter. The fee (\$100) and security deposit (\$100) for use of Crystal Pond Park for the Floating Workshop that had been submitted were returned following the cancelation of the Floating Workshop. Our current balance is \$1262.57.

TRBP Coordinators Report:

Floating Workshop update - 2020 is the 20th anniversary of the TRBP Floating Workshop planned June 12, 2020 annual TRBP Floating Workshop was cancelled due to restrictions in

place due to the Covid-19 pandemic. All arrangements that were made to reserve the dining hall at Crystal Pond Park in Eastford/Woodstock were cancelled and all monies were refunded.

A virtual Floating Workshop is under development. The theme for the 20th annual Floating Workshop had been previously selected to focus on the Natchaug River Healthy Watershed Implementation Planning Project under development by the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District. ECCD was given permission to combine the TLGV sponsored Floating Workshop with the CT DEEP funded Upper Natchaug Healthy Watershed Implementation Plan to create a TRBP Virtual Floating Workshop/Natchaug River Story Board. This storyboard will piece together the story of the Natchaug River, its designated uses, the environmental services performed by a healthy watershed, its economic value to the local residents and business, as well as the customers of the downstream water treatment plant. The storyboard will also highlight the threats to those valuable resources. ECCD staff, using small meetings with the project stakeholders and/or recorded workshops, will create video segments (either field or zoom interviews, or mini recorded PowerPoint presentations) to hyperlink to the storyboard. This storyboard will be hosted on the ECCD website. The video segments will be stored on the ECCD YouTube Channel. After the project is completed and the implementation plan is put into action, this storyboard can be expanded to feature those implementation efforts. The date of the virtual Floating Workshop has not been determined at this time but will be prior to the end of September.

Partner Reports

TRBP Partner Reports will be compiled into the Summer 2020 Thames River Basin Partnership Partners in Action Report available for download from TRBP website. TRBP Partners in Action Reports are behind schedule.

Next meeting will be on September 20, 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.