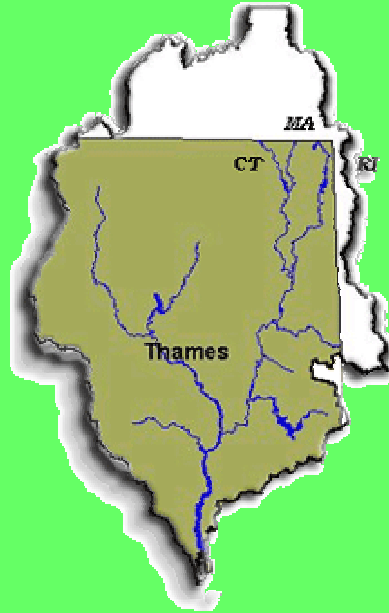


# Thames River Basin Partnership



Floating Workshop VII

June 1, 2007

“Rolling on the River” – a tour of the  
Shetucket River watershed.



The event opened at the EastConn classroom on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the historic Windham Mills in Willimantic.



Bev York, Director of Education for the Mill Museum of Connecticut, provided a brief history of the building.



The keynote speaker was Laura Wildman of American Rivers, who spoke knowledgably about dams and dam removal.



A motor coach was hired to tour the Shetucket River watershed.



Tim Wildman of the CT DEP Inland Fisheries Program gave an informative presentation on the bus about diadromous fish in the Shetucket River and efforts to allow their passage over the existing dams.



The first stop on the tour, courtesy of the Norwich DPU, was at the Greenville Dam in Norwich to view their fish lift.



Tour participants watch the fish lift operate.





Fish are lifted in an elevator...



...then poured into a fish passageway at the upper level of the dam...



...then videotaped for identification and automatically counted as they swim by.

This is a successfully operating fish lift.



Our tour drove by the Occum Dam and the fish ladder that was completed in 2005.





On the way to our next stop at Sprague River Park, Mike Goodwin, President of Trout Unlimited Thames Valley Chapter, reviewed the temperature data his organization collected in the Shetucket River in 2005/2006.



At Sprague River Park, we were met by Gerry Stephon of the Sprague Planning and Zoning Commission, who provided a history of land use at that site and redevelopment plans for a riverfront park which will include a handicap-accessible fly fishing ramp.

Art Christian of the CT DEP recounted the conditions that lead to the ice dam and subsequent downstream flooding in Baltic, and efforts to prevent a recurrence of that event.





Workshop attendees listen attentively to the presentations with the Shetucket River in the background.



TRBP Coordinator, Jean Pillo made certain the tour kept to the schedule on its upstream migration.



Ken Furber of Firstlight Power Resources, met us at the Scotland Dam and reviewed their future plans for the facility and answered questions.





Tour participants were able to walk on the Scotland Dam and enjoy the nice weather.



Was a discussion for potential future fish passage at the Scotland Dam going on here?

Our final stop on the tour was in Willimantic, north of the Windham Mills, where the Willimantic Whitewater Partnership provided a white water paddling demonstration.



Our Floating Workshop had a floating element after all.



The Willimantic Whitewater Partnership (WWP) envisions a downtown white water park in the future.



Refreshments were enjoyed on the Garden on the Bridge courtesy of the Willimantic Whitewater Partnership and the Willimantic River Alliance.







Ruth Cutler, one of the designers of the Garden on the Bridge.

Thank you to our TRBP Floating Workshop VII sponsors!

