



Thames River Basin Partnership

April 21, 2015

Meeting notes

Attendance: Jean Pillo, Dan Mullins, ECCD; Anne Roberts Pierson, Avalonia Land Conservancy; Bev Thornton, Brooklyn CC; Randy Thompson, Hampton Conservation Commission; Lois Bruinooge, TLGV; John Preston, Eric Lindquist, CT Office of Policy and Management; Ryan Goad; Marla Butts, Thompson IWO; Mary Ann Chinatti, Thompson Planner, Paul Lenky, Thompson First Selectman; Marc Cohen, ASRWWA; Ray Covino, NRCS; Eric Thomas, Chris Stone, DEEP; Dave Schroeder, Ledyard CC; Mike Backmere, WINY radio; Don Johnson, Putnam Planner; Sam Alexander, NECCOG’ Louise Fabrykeiwicz, Save Ocean Beach; Denise Coufey, Reminder News.

The meeting was held at the Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments office in Dayville, CT.

Meeting notes for January 20, 2015 were reviewed and approved by group consensus.

Special Presentation

A presentation was given by Chris Stone of CT DEEP on the revised MS4 general stormwater permit. Phase I of the program has been in place since xxxx. The proposed Phase II of the program divides CT municipalities into two tiers. Tier 1 municipalities must comply with six minimum requirements. New to the program are proposed reduced set of requirements for smaller, rural communities. Six towns in the Thames watershed are proposed to become Tier 1 municipalities. These towns include Brooklyn, Plainfield, Killingly, Coventry, Willington and Sprague. More information can be obtained by a special website www.ct.gov/deep/stormwater.

TRBP Financial Report

Date	Deposit or Withdrawal	Memo	Account Balance
4/21/2015		Beginning Balance	2,334.15
01/26/2015	-17.20	April meeting refreshments	2,316.95
02/10/2015	-5.32	Storage bin for TRBP supplies	2,311.63
		Ending Balance	2,311.63

The financial report was approved by consensus.

TRBP Coordinator’s Report

- TRBP Plan of Work will expire on June 30, 2015. An updated TRBP Plan of Work for 2015 – 2018 was drafted after requesting input from partnering organizations. The draft 2015 – 18 TRBP Plan of Work was posted to the TRBP website prior to the meeting and available for comment.
- A request for \$3500 was made to the Environmental Professionals of Connecticut (EPOC) for the purpose of transferring the TRBP website to a new platform and updating the content. The request was not funded.
- The TRBP Floating Workshop will be hosted at Sturbridge Village this year, and the theme will be the upper Quinebaug River. The workshop fee will include entrance to the

Village, so workshop attendees can opt to arrive early to take advantage of that opportunity. It is undecided if a morning paddle on the Quinebaug River Trail will be organized. Cost of the workshop has not yet been determined. An attempt to get local sponsors to donate funds to cover scholarships for college students to attend the workshop was not funded.

- As TRBP Coordinator, Jean Pillo was invited to attend a National Ocean Policy, New England Healthy Ocean and Coast Workshop in Massachusetts. This gathering was focused non-profit organizations that impact ocean health through their project focus. The Thames River estuary is an extension of Long Island Sound. Similar gatherings for commercial users and other focus groups had also been organized. Through participating in this workshop, the Shetucket River Diadromous Fish Restoration Plan and Alewife Cove restoration work was added to a list of potential priority projects, but it was undecided whether a priority project list approach or generic approach would be used going forward.
- Through the TRBP Contact the Coordinator link on the TRBP website, Eric Smith, Principal Planner for the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) made contact with Jean Pillo looking for opportunities to partner on projects in the upper Thames watershed. Jean was able to put him in contact with the Webster Lake Association and Town of Webster officials, and a report completed by CME on stormwater issues in the Webster Lake watershed. This may lead to CMRPC to serve as the applicant on a 319 grant in Massachusetts to address stormwater issues in the Webster Lake area.

TRBP business

The Partners voted unanimously to adopt the updated Thames River Basin Partnership Plan of Work. This Plan of Work will be effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018. The revised TRBP Plan of work will be uploaded to the TRBP website.

The Partners voted unanimously to use TRBP passbook funds to cover any Floating Workshop expenses that exceed the registration fees.

Partner Reports

TRBP Partner Reports were compiled into the Thames River Basin Partnership Partners in Action Report.

Next meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2015. Meeting location for the summer meeting is Project O in Groton. The special presentation TBD.

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