



## Thames River Basin Partnership July 19, 2016 Meeting Notes

**Attendance:** Jean Pillo, Dan Mullins, ECCD; Anne Roberts Pierson, Groton Open Space Association (GOSA); Lois Bruinooge, TLGV; Marc Cohen, ASRWWA; Ray Covino, Garrett Timmons, Jacob Isleib, NRCS; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP, Michelle Fitzpatrick, Avalonia Land Conservancy; Eva Kovach, Connecticut College Rowing; Peter Cooper, Bud McAllister, Partners in Healthy Communities; Jean Cass, Woodstock resident; Mickey Weiss, Jim McCauley, Project Oceanology; Nancy Balcolm, CT Sea Grant

The meeting was held at Project Oceanology, Groton CT. Jim McCaugley, Project O Director welcomed the group to the facility.

Meeting notes for April 19, 2016 were approved by consensus.

CT Sea Grant was thanked for sponsoring the parking fees newly instituted by UCONN at their Avery Point Campus.

### Special Presentation

Jacob Isleib of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service gave a presentation on Coastal Zone Soil Surveys and how subaqueous soil data is collected and its uses.

### TRBP Financial Report

Beginning balance \$2063.10  
Floating Workshop registration fees \$700.00  
TRBP donations \$150.00  
Floating Workshop Expenses 837.77  
    Project O fees \$410.00  
    Lunch \$400.00  
    Miscellaneous \$27.77  
Meeting refreshments/supplies for April meeting \$34.46  
Final balance \$2040.87

### TRBP Coordinator's Report

The TRBP website is still static. The website is available, but the TRBP Coordinator is no longer able to edit the TRBP website. Microsoft ended their support of FrontPage, the software used to develop the website.

- The ECCD application for a Poquetanuck Cove Bioblitz and TRBP website update from the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut was not funded. New strategies are needed to fund a new website. Estimated cost of the project is \$4000 to hire a contractor to set up the new website and to cover the cost of the TRBP Coordinator's time to assist with an outline and content for the new website.

- It was suggested that Connecticut College has paid internship programs and Michelle Fitzpatrick will inquire if a student is available, interested and qualified to work on this project.
- Three Rivers Community College may also have student interns that need to complete projects.
- The group discussed sending out donation appeal letters to raise funds to collect donations from partners to support a new website.
- For now, TLGV has devoted space on their website for a TRBP page. Recent meeting agendas, notes, newsletters and this year’s Floating Workshop summary slide show can be downloaded from there. <http://thelastgreenvalley.org/learn-protect/watershed-protection/thames-river-basin-partnership>.
- Or, go to thelastgreenvalley.org and look for watershed protection under “learn and protect” tab. TRBP is an option under watershed protection.

Floating Workshop XVI – Due to unforeseen complications with the water transportation for the workshop, the TRBP coordinator needed to put in a lot of extra time to line up replacement boats. TRBP is very grateful to our partners that answer our SOFW (Save Our Floating Workshop)! The US Fish and Wildlife Service Steward B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, under Rick Potvin, brought their vessel all the way from Westport to support our workshop, and for a reduced fee, Project O skiffs were provided to meet our transportation needs. The weather cooperated. Other in-kind contributions to the workshop included the use of the conference room at Fort Trumbull State Park, use of the meeting space at the Custom House Maritime Museum and a tour of the Groton wastewater treatment plant. We had three workshop attendees donate extra funds and with that, the workshop ended with a very small profit. The TRBP Coordinator sent out thank you letters to all our workshop supporters and has prepared a slide show summary of the events of the day.

TRBP Facebook page update: Facebook page has 16 followers! A post about the Floating Workshop was shared via the TLGV Facebook page and many people viewed it, but only 2 new “likes” were generated. Partners were encouraged to “like” and follow the TRBP Facebook page, and to share posts to generate additional interest in the organization.

Floating Workshop XVII – suggested focus on Little River watershed, National Water Quality Incentive watershed.

## **Partner Reports**

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

Next meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2016 at the Hampton Community Center. The guest presenter will be Min Huang of CT DEEP Wildlife Division, speaking on the updated CT Wildlife Action Plan and the 2016 commemoration of 150 years of conservation in CT.

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