



Thames River Basin Partnership January 19, 2016 Meeting Notes

Attendance: Jean Pillo, Dan Mullins, ECCD; Anne Roberts Pierson, Marie Olson, Groton Open Space Association (GOSA); Lois Bruinooge, TLGV; Marc Cohen, ASRWVA; Ray Covino, Tom Morgart, NRCS; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP, Beverly Thornton, Brooklyn Conservation Commission, Jean Cass, Woodstock resident; Joellen Anderson, Avalonia Land Conservancy; Eric Lindquist, CT OPM; Larry Sullivan, Mark LaLima, NPU; Lisa Hayden, NEFF/Mass Conn outreach.

The meeting was held at the USDA Service Center, Norwich, CT.

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

Special Introduction: Thomas Morgart, Connecticut's new State Conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service was welcomed to Connecticut by the Partners.

Special Presentation: Mike LaLima of Norwich Public Utilities presented an update on Norwich's plan to eliminate Combined Sewer Overflows from its sewer system. Currently there are 14 outfalls where untreated wastewater overflows into the river during heavy rainfall events. Mike overviewed the history of the system, and the 20 year plan to separate stormwater from the sanitary sewer system. Beginning in the Greenville neighborhood, it is expected that within 5 years, 7 of the 14 CSO outfalls will be separated. The downtown area will present the most challenges due to poor mapping of conduit and other utilities buried near the sewer lines.

TRBP Coordinators Report

- TRBP financial report
 - Beginning balance 2,212.81
 - Meeting refreshments for October meeting -11.98
 - Website renewal fees -116.87
 - Final balance 2,083.96
- Website updates – website hosting and 2 domain name registrations were renewed. The website is still 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. Funding to support a new TRBP website is ongoing.
 - ECCD applied to the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut for funding to support activities related to the Poquetanuck Cove Conservation Action Plan. These activities will include a Bioblitz of the cove, development of QR code markers for outreach at publically accessible locations, and a revision of the TRBP website to host the Bioblitz outcomes and the pages linked to the QR code markers. Unfortunately, this project was not funded in the first round of funding

through this funding source, but ECCD was encouraged to reapply for the next funding round.

- TRBP Facebook page update: Facebook page is slow to acquire followers – only 7 likes to date. The TRBP coordinator finds this outreach tool easier to provide upcoming event announcements than the web calendar associated with the website. Partners were encouraged to “like” the Thames River Basin Partnership Facebook page.
- Floating Workshop XVI –still focused on the Thames River water taxis traveling to various cultural sites along the Thames River. Joellen Anderson and Anne Roberts Pierson have volunteered to serve on the Floating Workshop planning committee.

Partner Reports

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

Next meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2016. We will meet at the Atwood Farm in Ashford – owned by Joshua’s Trust. Meeting presentation led by Lois Bruinooge of TLGV will focus on development of a regional conservation plan. A tour of the Atwood Farm facilities will follow the meeting.

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