



## Thames River Basin Partnership April 18, 2017 Meeting Notes

**Attendance:** Jean Pillo, Dan Mullins, ECCD; Garrett Timons, Ray Covino, Matt Snurkowski, NRCS; Lois Bruinooge, TLGV; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP, Adam Whelchel, TNC; Marc Cohen, ARSWWA; Joellen Anderson, Michele Fitzpatrick, Avalonia; Anne Roberts Pierson, GOSA/ECCD; Paul Shaffer, ECCD; Eric Sanderson, NECCOG; Dennis Latchum, Lebanon IWC; Jean Cass, Luke Decesaris.

The meeting was held at the Lebanon Fire Safety Complex.

Meeting notes for January 17, 2016 were approved by consensus.

**Special Presentation:** Adam Whelchel, Science Director for The Nature Conservancy presented an overview of a recently completed project with 10 southeastern Connecticut municipalities focused on regional community resilience. Southeastern Connecticut is a collection of communities each with its own individual identity and history. However, everyone involved with the project was reminded during this project that the fate of each community is closely tied to the social, environmental, and economic health of the whole region. Therefore, it is quite clear that the challenges facing this region are best tackled collectively with multiple towns, organizations, associations, foundations, and businesses working together. TNC hopes that this Regional Resilience Vision process, the Summary of Findings and the Guidebook help each community gain greater clarity on the common challenges faced while providing positive steps toward continued dialogue, resource sharing, and forward thinking leadership critical to community resilience building in Southeastern Connecticut. Outcomes of the process can be downloaded from the links below.

- Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resilience Vision Project – Summary of Findings:  
<https://tnc.box.com/s/7k899k4wet92bd293x7xvoo0mejh56yu>
- Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resilience Guidebook  
<https://tnc.box.com/s/8nne60yjk2g3m1mgzkfa86rndxyjiawf>

Funding for this project was provided in part by the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut.

### TRBP Financial Report

Beginning balance 1934.99

Meeting refreshments/supplies for January meeting -\$15.41

Donations from # givingtuesday appeal \$250.00

Final balance = \$2169.58

## **TRBP Coordinator's Report**

The Thames River Basin Partnership was selected to receive the first ever Outstanding Source Water Protection Award by the Atlantic States Rural Water and Wastewater Association on February 1, 2017 at their annual meeting. The plaque is on display at the ECCD Norwich office.

The TRBP website is still static. EPOC grant decision still pending.

When partners send information they want to share to the TRBP Coordinator, it is copied onto the TRBP Facebook page. The number of followers is growing but still a small number.

TRBP is listed as an active partner in the 3 Regional Conservation Partnership Projects with an outreach role.

TRBP Floating Workshop 17 planning update – the barn at Roseland Park has been reserved for June 9. A floating workshop planning meeting was held on March 31. A pre-workshop Little River projects tour is being planned, including stops at 4 farms and two other stormwater projects in the Little River Watershed. The afternoon workshop at Roseland Park will focus on water quality improvement projects in the Little River (Woodstock/Putnam) watershed, followed by a guided paddle on Roseland Lake. A \$25 registration fee to cover food and insurance is planned.

Next meeting will be on July 18, 2017 (location TBD). Project Oceanology is now required to charge a \$125 fee for use of their classroom. A request was sent to Sea Grant to host the meeting, but a decision on that is still pending. Topic TBD

## **Partner Reports**

TRBP Partner Reports will be compiled into the Thames River Basin Partnership Partners in Action Report available for download from The Last Green Valley website.

Next meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2017. Meeting location UCONN Avery Point.

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