



Thames River Basin Partnership

January 16, 2018

Meeting Notes (Draft)

Attendance:

Jean Pillo, Dan Mullins, Judy Rondeau, Michael Soares, Maura Robie, ECCD; Lois Bruinooge, TLGV; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP, Marc Cohen, ARSWWA, Pat Young, ERWSSC/SRWP, Pat Monahan, Amos Lake Association; Sam Alexander, SCCOG, Garrett Timmons, Tom Morgart, Kathryn Zurumski, Matt Snurkowski, NRCS; David Faist, McClure Engineering; Dennis Latchum, Lebanon IWC; Molly Jacobs, Project O; Pat McLaughlin, City of Norwich; Jean Cass; Marcia Kilpatrick, Hampton Conservation Commission

The meeting was held at the Connecticut Audubon Society Grassland Bird Conservation Center in Pomfret.

Meeting notes for October 17, 2017 were reviewed. E. Thomas requested the word “an” be inserted in the description “Natchaug River is an eastern Connecticut benchmark stream for water quality”. With the correction, the meeting notes were approved by consensus.

Special Presentation:

Amanda Ryan, the Municipal Stormwater Educator for the Center for UCONN Land-use Education and Research (CLEAR) was our featured presenter. Amanda is responsible for statewide outreach and education to communities and institutions regulated by the state Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer Systems (MS4) general permit. Amanda reviewed the six minimum measures required under the MS4 permit and new online tools to assist with reporting requirements. These tools can be found at <http://nemo.uconn.edu/ms4/index.htm>

TRBP Financial Report

Beginning balance \$2143.30

date	transition	Amount	Balance
11/14/17	Go Daddy webhosting and 2 domain name renewal	-\$137.18	2,006.12
12/1/17	Chelsea Groton Bank	\$500	2,506.12
		Balance	\$2506.12

TRBP Coordinator’s Report

TLGV/ECCD entered into a new cooperative agreement that includes a stable level of funding for TRBP and TLGV WQM Coordinator time for federal FY18 through September 30, 2018.

TRBP received a \$500 small grant from the Chelsea Groton Bank Foundation to support 20 scholarships for Municipal Officials for the 2018 Floating Workshop. TRBP FW committee will develop up a scholarship application form to distribute to the towns and advertise the scholarship.

Applied for and received on behalf of the TRBP a \$500 mini-grant from the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut to support 12 hours of TRBP Coordinator time and meeting refreshments for a series of 3 meetings focused on the TRBP Plan of Work update with the focus on building the number of organizations involved in the partnership and development of a plan of work that represents the expanded organization. This opportunity followed an October 24, 2017 Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut sponsored event featuring a conversation about balancing economic growth and environmental preservation and what that means for vibrant communities. The “Parks and Parking Lots” program was attended by over 50 areas conservation organizations, was one in a series of facilitated conversations they sponsored.

The TRBP website is still static.

Applied to the Jewett City Foundation for \$2250 – application was misdirected.

Applied to Rivers Alliance of CT for \$2500- application approved and may be increased.

TRBP is listed as an active partner in the 3 Regional Conservation Partnership Projects with an outreach role. The website is a critical tool for providing outreach on these projects.

TRBP outreach update:

The TRBP Facebook page now has 44 followers. TLGV, DEEP and Army Corp of Engineers like the page, so info gets out to a larger audience when they comment on or share a posting. Managing the Facebook page is not a big time commitment and an easy way to share partner updates and workshop announcements that come in between quarterly meetings.

Floating Workshop XVIII- Project O has reached out to TRBP to offer the use of their Envirolab for this year’s Floating Workshop. The theme of the workshop we proposed for the Chelsea Groton Bank Foundation Grant was river continuity. A date (June 15) has been decided based on Project O’s schedule. Any partners interested on participating on the TRBP Floating Workshop Planning committee, please contact me.

TRBP Plan of Work will expire in April 2018. All Partners are asked to review the current plan and suggest updates and revisions to make the next plan more inclusive and partner focused. A series of TRBP Plan of Work meetings will be scheduled to focus on the plan update.

Anybody interested in helping to organize a TRBP sponsored Trails Day/TLGV Spring Outdoors/Avalonia 50th anniversary paddle at Poquetanuck Cove for June 2 or 3, please let me know.

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 after is it completed.

Next meeting will be on April 17, 2018. (Location TBD).

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