



Thames River Basin Partnership October 20, 2020 Meeting Notes (Draft)

Attendance: Jean Pillo, ECCD/TRBP Coordinator, Judy Rondeau, ECCD; Lois Bruinooge, The Last Green Valley; Cindy Wright Jones;; Dennis Latchum, Lebanon IWC; Michelle Maitland, Town of Groton and Niantic Watershed Committee; Sam Alexander, SCCOG; Paul Shaffer; Henry Bowers, Friends of the Shetucket River; Eric McPhee, CT DPH; Jane Brawerman, CT River Coastal Conservation District; Amanda Ryan, UCONN CLEAR/NEMO; Jean Cass.

Special Presentation:

ECCD's Assistant Director, Judy Rondeau. Judy gave an overview of the Eastern Connecticut Stormwater Collaborative. Modeled after the Central Massachusetts Stormwater Coalition, the Eastern Connecticut Stormwater Collaborative is a partnership of municipalities, non-profits, educational institutions and agencies working together to help the municipalities navigate the requirements of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General permit. This unfunded mandate requires certain municipalities to comply with six minimum control measures of the MS4 permit. Rather than each municipality struggling through these requirements alone, the Collaborative gathers municipal representatives and agency specialists to discuss common issues, resource sharing and education and outreach strategies to meet the requirements of the MS4 permit. More information on the Eastern Connecticut Stormwater Collaborative is available on the ECCD website.

TRBP meeting notes from Summer 2020 were approved by consensus.

TRBP Financial Report: There has been no activity on our account. The current balance is \$1262.57. The website renewal/domain name fees of \$163.42 will be charged to the account before the Winter meeting.

TRBP Coordinator Report

A virtual Floating Workshop was presented on September 25, 2020. The theme for the 20th annual Floating Workshop featured the Natchaug River Healthy Watershed Implementation Planning Project under development by the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District. ECCD was given permission to combine the TLGV sponsored Floating Workshop with the CT DEEP funded Upper Natchaug Healthy Watershed Implementation Plan outreach requirements to create a TRBP Virtual Floating Workshop/Natchaug River Story Board. This storyboard pieced together the story of the Natchaug River, its designated uses, the environmental services performed by a healthy watershed, its economic value to the local residents and business, as well as the customers of the downstream water treatment plant. The storyboard also highlighted some of the threats to those valuable resources. ECCD staff recorded workshops, created video segments (either field or zoom interviews, or recorded PowerPoint presentations) to hyperlink to the storyboard. The storyboard is featured on the TRBP website under the Floating Workshop

tab as [FW 20th Anniversary Natchaug River Storyboard](#). As the Natchaug Healthy Watershed Protection Plan is put into action, this storyboard will be expanded to feature implementation efforts.

TRBP Facebook page has 111 followers. There were 18 posts this quarter.

Partner Reports

TRBP Partner Reports have been compiled into the Fall 2020 Thames River Basin Partnership Partners in Action Report available for download from TRBP website. TRBP Partners in Action Reports that had been backlogged are all caught up.

Next meeting will be on January 19, 2021 and will be held virtually via Zoom.

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