



FY 2019-2020 TRBP Annual Report

Four quarterly meetings were held.

The October 2019 TRBP quarterly meeting was held at the Audrey Peck Municipal Complex in Mansfield and featured a presentation by Lynn Stoddard of the Eastern Connecticut State University Institute for Sustainable Living on the Sustainable Connecticut program.

January 2020 TRBP Meeting was held at the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service conference room in Norwich and featured Mary Becker of CT DEEP. She spoke on how DEEP has developed a program for using diatoms as water quality indicators in streams. Diatoms are a type of single cell algae that make a shell wall out of silica. Certain diatom species only live in water with low concentrations of phosphorous. Higher levels of phosphorous causes ecological changes in streams that impacts aquatic life, including diatom diversity.

April 2020 – (moved to online format for Covid-19 compliance) Brian Hall and Hunter Brawley co-presented on the Northeast Initiative Mapper Project, an effort led by The Last Green Valley in partnership with the CT Land Conservation Council and land trusts in eastern Connecticut. The initiative was funded by the Community Foundation Eastern Connecticut. The open space GIS data layer was updated to include more recent land acquisitions since CT DEEP most recently updated their data. It also allows users to overlay other habitat quality information with the open space information for better open space acquisition planning.

July 2020 – (online meeting) remotely featured Andrew J Kowalczyk, Hydrologic Technician from the USGS New York Water Science Center, who gave a presentation on Edge of Field Monitoring and Sediment Monitoring in the Genesee River Watershed, New York. Andrew and his team have been collecting concurrent edge of field and tile drainage data from the same fields in the Genesee River watershed basin in upstate New York. The research team documented differences in nutrient and sediment loss on sloped vs non-sloped fields and how the losses compared between fields with and without tile drains.

20th Annual Thames River Basin Floating Workshop was planned to feature ECCD's work in the Natchaug Watershed. The June 12 event was cancelled due to Covid-19. The live event was replaced by the development of a Storyboard on the Natchaug Watershed, with a video introduction by TRBP Coordinator Jean Pillo wearing a Hawaiian style shirt in a kayak and welcoming the viewers to the Covid-19 compliant TRBP Floating Workshop. Multiple Partner representatives provided short video messages congratulating the TRBP for this milestone event. Many detailed how their organization has benefitted from their long term involvement with the Partnership. A link to their messages is on the TRBP Partners page of the storyboard. After the TRBP introduction slides are a series of slides focused on natural resources in the Natchaug watershed with links to interviews with conservational professionals in that field, or educational videos on the subject. Each page of the storyboard is linked to the TRBP by a short video featuring the TRBP Coordinator introducing the topic featured on that page while wearing the same Hawaiian shirt as in the introduction slide. The Natchaug Healthy Watershed Storyboard is available on the Thames River Basin Partnership website at <http://thamesriverbasinpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/TRBP-FW20.pdf>.