



Thames River Basin Partnership

January 18, 2022

Meeting Notes (Draft)

Attendance: Jean Pillo, ECCD/TRBP Coordinator, Dan Mullins, Maura Robie, Lindsay Beutler, Heather Palardy, ECCD; Cindy Wright Jones, TLGV vol & ECCD Board, Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Garrett Timmons, USDA NRCS; Lois Bruinooge, The Last Green Valley; Sam Alexander, SCCOG; Jeanne Davis, CT RC&D, Beth Bernard, CT Forest and Parks/Goodwin Conservation Center; Jean Hixson, Eastford resident; Marc Cohen, ARSWWA (retired); William Dubinsky, Janet Bellamy, Melinda MacDonald, Ashford CC and Sustainable CT; Kathy Demers, Willington CC; Marcia Kilpatrick, Hampton CC; Pat Monahan, Amos Lake Association; Heidi Comeau, Michelle Maitland, Groton Public Works; Kristin Distant, Town of Groton CC; Virginia Walton, Mansfield Recycling Coordinator and Chaplin IWWC; Gary Lussier, Thames Valley Trout Unlimited; Brian Gibbon, Connecticut College Arboretum; Jean DeSmet, Windham Pollinator Pathway.

Special Presentation: Donna Merrill, President Pollinator Pathway Northeast, gave a presentation on the history of Pollinator Pathway initiative and how it has expanded into 10 states in the northeastern region of the United States. The focus on the initiative is to improve pollinator habitat and pollinator habitat connectivity. Indirect impacts include improved water quality and carbon sequestration. The main premise of the program is to encourage landowners to voluntarily participate in the initiative by reducing the size of their lawns, incorporating more native plants including native flowering trees, shrubs and herbaceous wildflowers, limiting herbicide and avoiding pesticide use. Municipalities enrolled in the Sustainable CT program that also enroll in the Pollinator Pathway initiative can earn points towards their Bronze, Silver or Gold status. By focusing on butterflies, bees, wasps and other critters as pollinator ambassadors, landowners can increase the biodiversity of pollinators that visit their land. To learn more about the Pollinator Pathway initiative or to review their excellent resource list, please visit their website <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/>. For more information and/or to receive their newsletter, email them at info@pollinator-pathway.org.

TRBP Financial Report:

Activity	Item	Transaction Amount	balance
Starting Balance		1842.11	1842.11
	TRBP website renewal fee for 2 years (thru Nov 2022)	267.26	1574.85
		Final Balance	1574.85

TRBP Coordinator Report

Apologies were offered for cancelling the Fall TRBP meeting. Attendance registration on Zoom was incorrectly only showing one person registered. Email confirmation was requested for this meeting as a backup.

The Last Green Valley has renewed their support of the TRBP Coordinator position for another year ending on September 30, 2023. With the uncertainty of funding for TLGV in the future, alternate funding sources should be investigated.

The TRBP Annual Report was prepared and submitted to The Last Green Valley on December 1, 2021.

TRBP website is update up to date with documents and paid up through late fall.

TRBP Plan of Work update was not completed. Will need to work with the working group to complete this task as time permits with a goal of having an updated work plan by April 2022.

TRBP Floating Workshop planning is ongoing. This year is the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. Ideas to promote this golden anniversary are welcome, including special speakers. Suggested topics included a focus on the Quinebaug River including a visit to the Trout Hatchery in Plainfield and updates to the state pier in New London.

Social Media update

The TRBP FB page is has increased to 215 followers. The TRBP FB page is kept active through sharing of posts by partnering organizations and random other items believed to be of interest to the group. If any of our partnering organizations wish to have their message shared on the TRBP website, please send the information to Jean.Pillo@comcast.net in a cut and paste format. Pictures encouraged.

Partner Reports

TRBP Partner Reports will be compiled into the Winter 2022 Thames River Basin Partnership Partners in Action Report.

Next meeting will be on April 19, 2022 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.