



## Thames River Basin Partnership July 19, 2022 Meeting Notes (Draft)

**Attendance:** Jean Pillo, ECCD/TRBP Coordinator, Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Cindy Wright Jones, TLGV vol & ECCD Board; Garrett Timmons, USDA NRCS; Michelle Maitland, Groton Public Works; Alicia Tyson, CT Sea Grant; Amy Cabaniss, UCONN Engineering and Environmental Management; Losi Bruinooge, TLGV; Paul Stacey, Footprints in the Sand; Toby Glaza, Avalonia Land Conservancy, Jean DeSmet, Naubesatuck Watershed Council.

**Special Presentation:** If you missed this summers special presentation, then you missed a presentation given by Alicia Tyson of CT Sea Grant. Alicia was recently hired by CT Sea Grant to manage the Long Island Sound Sustainable and Resilient Communities Working Group. The main priorities of this working group are to create more trained community decision makers at the municipal level, building a resource hub to help guild decision makers using a decision tree process, and building training programs/workshops to facilitate the process. For more information, please contact Alicia at [alicia.f.tyson@uconn.edu](mailto:alicia.f.tyson@uconn.edu) or call (860) 405-9108.

### **TRBP Financial Report:**

We begin the quarter with \$1449.85 in the TRBP passthrough account. Expenses for the workshop included \$225 for insurance for the paddling portion of the workshop and \$121.41 for refreshments, etc. totaling \$346.41. Income from the workshop fees and donations was \$367. Final workshop impact on the budget was a gain of \$20.59 ending the quarter at \$1595.44. ECCD provided a tent for the outdoor workshop at no fee.

### **TRBP Coordinator's Report**

TRBP Floating was held on June 10, 2022 at the Plainfield Fish Hatchery. The theme of the workshop was a Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the CT Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Act, which preceded the passage of the Federal Clean Water Act by several months. Denise Savageau, President of the CT Association of Conservation Districts, give the keynote address, followed by a talk given by Chief Ranger Bill Reid of The Last Green Valley. Bill gave the history of the three water trails (Quinebaug, Willimantic and Shetucket Rivers) recognized as National Recreation Trails by the National Park Service, and how they came about following the 2009 Source to Sea adventures organized by TLGV. He also spoke on TLGV's eagle monitoring efforts that have helped to document an increase in American Bald Eagles in CT and an increase in the known number of breeding pairs that have made their home in eastern Connecticut. Improved water quality in our rivers made it possible for both the increased use of our rivers for water-based recreation, and for the return of Bald Eagles. Jean Pillo, switching to her TLGV Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator hat, spoke on TLGV's water quality monitoring program and data that had been submitted to CT DEEP that has been used to document water quality in the greater Thames watershed area, followed by Eric Thomas, who gave an overview on how to use a new app to determine water quality in Connecticut, and an overview of the draft 2022 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring Report to Congress that CT

DEEP was accepting public comment on through July 6. Following our outdoor tent talks, the workshop transitioned to a tour of the Quinebaug Valley Fish Hatchery led by Bryan Decker of CT DEEP. After a light lunch, many of the workshop attendees participated in an optional paddle on the Quinebaug River. Prior to the paddle, the paddlers were read a piece on the history of the First Americans that lived in this area, the Nipmuc Tribe, and asked to think about how the land may have been stewarded then vs how it is currently managed. In total, there were 17 people involved in this year's Floating Workshop. A storymap of the day's events was generated in place of a post workshop report. To view the storymap, use this link <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/50b96f59ce6145958cf07c36d2b339ba>.

The TRBP Plan of Work expired in 2021. The new draft TRBP Plan of Work has been prepared and posted to the TRBP website for review and approval. Thank you, Eric Thomas, Dan Mullins and Lois Bruinooge, for your input. Plan of Work to be presented and discussed. There was no descent expressed about the updated Plan of Work.

### **TRBP website update**

TRBP website continues to have on and off access issues with frequent alerts that an unauthorized entity (a bot?) is attempting to break into the website. After so many attempts, GoDaddy, the server TRBP pays to host the site, will shuts the website down for a period of time to prevent further attempts. It is believed that attempts to view the website during those shutdowns will result in a message that the website was not available. If that happens, you are encouraged to try the website again at a later time.

### **Social Media update**

The TRBP FB page is has increased to 236 likes and 266 followers. The FB page remains active through the 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 via email to [Jean.Pillo@Comcast.net](mailto:Jean.Pillo@Comcast.net) in a cut and paste format. Pictures are encouraged.

### **Partner Reports**

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

Next meeting will be on October 18, 2022 and tentatively will be held virtually via Zoom until all agencies are cleared for indoor in person meetings.

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