



Thames River Basin Partnership October 18, 2022 Meeting Notes (Draft)

Attendance: Jean Pillo, ECCD/TRBP Coordinator, Dan Mullins, ECCD; Cindy Wright Jones, TLGV vol & ECCD Board; Garrett Timmons, USDA NRCS; Losi Bruinooge, TLGV; Linda Colangelo, NDDH; Valerie Ietto, the New Roxbury Land Trust; Andrew Ely, Project Oceanology; Jan Howell, Waterford Land Trust; Kyle Casiglio, SECOG; Gary Lussier, Thames Valley TU; Deb Mosher-Dunn, Save the Rivers, Save the Hills and Waterford Land Trust; Bryan Avery, Joshua's Trust; Doris Johnson, CLCC Board; Mindy Gosselin, Town of Coventry; Beth Bernard, Goodwin Forest Conservation Center/CT Forest and Parks Association

Special Presentation:

If you missed this fall's special presentation, then you missed a presentation by Linda Colangelo, Education and Communications Coordinator for the Northeast District Department of Health, and Coordinator for the HealthQuest Northeast CT health and wellness coalition. These community partners have been working together to reduce the risk of chronic illness by creating and improving places for physical activity. Work includes enhancing trails and greenways infrastructure, improving equitable access to trails and on trails, and increasing awareness of multi-use trails. HealthQuest is also working with Della M. Corcoran, MD, Kimberly Bradley at DEEP and Kristen Bellantuono with No Child Left Behind to further develop an Outdoor RX CT concept, a program that empowers physicians to start "social prescribing" – referring patients to local, non-clinical resources such as those found in nature - to benefit physical/mental health and overall wellbeing. This presentation focused in part on the health benefits of being outdoors in the natural resources our TRBP partners work so hard to conserve.

This presentation, filled with important statistics for grant writers, was recorded and is available for view at this link <https://youtu.be/K4dRBrprFMo>

TRBP Financial Report:

ECCD, who acts at the fiduciary agency for TRPB, transitioned to a new accounting service in July and were some minor discrepancies in the accounting that I am working to resolve. Currently, there should be an account balance of \$1598.36 in our passthrough account. There were no expenses this past quarter.

Next quarter, expected expenses include payment of \$125 for the cost of the coordinator to attend a Gala honoring the 50th anniversary of Project Oceanology.

The TRBP website and two domain names will need to be renewed this coming quarter.

TRBP Coordinator's Report

The TRBP Coordinator position is funded in part by The Last Green Valley. The funding for FY 23 beginning October 1, 2022 has been renewed.

A draft TRBP annual report has been prepared for TLGV. A current focus is on developing a match statement which will exceed the required match thanks to your in-kind time donations.

Floating Workshop 23 - If we are interested in seeking funding support for the FW 23, now is the time to start looking for grant opportunities or other workshop sponsors. It may be time to bring the program back into the Thames River and hire a boat. Possible topic might be fish passage. Other ideas are welcome.

Representing the TRBP, the TRBP coordinator, Jean Pillo attended the 50th anniversary gala for Project Oceanology. Project Oceanology founder Mickey Weiss, who is also a founding member/partner of the TRBP, was being honored at the event. On behalf of the TRBP, she was able to present a Certificate of Appreciation to Mickey and to publicly thank Project Oceanology for their support of our organization over the past 22 years.

TRBP website update

TRBP website is due to be renewed. The website content was last updated two weeks ago. Previous issues with access to the website for editing seems to be resolved for now. Sometimes there is a lag between WordPress updates and updates to the plugins used to manage the page. The coordinator didn't need to call tech support this quarter, which was taken as a good sign. Please report any out-of-date information to Jean.Pillo@Comcast.net and the content can be updated.

Social Media update

The TRBP FB page has increased from 266 followers to 280. That number can be increased if FB followers continue to share posts so more people are exposed to the content. The FB page remains active through the sharing of posts by partnering organizations and random other items that are determined to be of interest to the group. If any of our partnering organizations wish to have their message shared on the TRBP Facebook page, please send the information via email to Jean.Pillo@Comcast.net in a cut and paste format. Pictures are encouraged.

Partner Reports

TRBP Partner Reports will be compiled into the Fall 2022 Thames River Basin Partnership Partners in Action Report and uploaded to the website once completed.

<https://thamesriverbasinpartnership.org/>

Next meeting will be on January 17, 2023 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.