

**The Last Green Valley, Inc.  
Water Advisory Committee**

**Tuesday, August 8, 2017  
9:00 am –11:30 am  
Roseland Park  
205 Roseland Park Road  
Woodstock, CT**



**Meeting notes**

Meeting attendance: Jean Pillo ECCD/TLGV WQM Coordinator; Dan Mullins, Michael Soares, Judy Rondeau, Maura Robie, ECCD, Lois Bruinooge, TLGV; Pat Monahan, Bryan McCauley, Amos Lake Association; Dennis Latchum, Lebanon IWC; Therese Beaudoin, MA DEP; Ziggy Waraszkiwicz, Charlton Lakes and Ponds; Prajjwal Panday, Todd Anderson, Nichols College; Andy Gardiner, Troy Quick, Windham Water Works; Lisanne Tholl; Ernie Benoit, Gloria Ricker, Marilyn Altston, Webster Lake Association; Paul Shaffer; Grayce Gibbs; June Decker (Hopeville Pond); Tim Hotchkiss (Avery Pond); Bill Dupirak, Three Rivers Community College; Ken Butkiewicz; Jack Middleton (Bungay Lake);

There was no meeting in May 2017. February 2017 meeting notes approved by consensus.

**TLGV Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program Coordinator's Report:**

The Annual Volunteer Monitoring Appreciation event took place on March 31. Light snow may have threatened some attendance.

2017 water quality monitoring program season is in progress.

- TLGV Trolls were made ready for the season and consumables were resupplied. Trolls are aging. Unit 2 15 foot cable unreliable. Unit 1 com port connector glitch. Getting by using a Franken-troll for this season. Equipment has been "obsoleted" by the manufacturer.
- The 9 TLGV HOBO temperature data loggers have been deployed again in the Natchaug River watershed.
  - Six of the locations will be for a second year of data at the same location.
  - One logger was moved to a new location in the same stream.
  - Two loggers are in new locations this year requested by DEEP fisheries.
  - Mid-summer HOBO field checks will be conducted before the end of August.
- There was an interest in deploying HOBOS in MA but units were not received for calibration/set up in time to deploy them this year.
- Shetucket River was being sampled in 7 locations this season. Four stations in Lebanon are also monitored for E. coli for a second season. Eight weeks of sampling wrapped up on August 1.
  - E.coli samples were analyzed at CT DPH by special arrangement on the CT DEEP account after the Uncas Health District declined to sponsor the sampling in their district.
  - TLGV has some of the best volunteers. DPH was not funded for a summer courier. The volunteers coordinated to share the sample drop off at the DPH lab in Rocky Hill.
- TLGV volunteers are assisting with the UCONN PATH RCPP project. Ten monitoring sites were carefully selected in known impaired streams downstream of agriculture activity. Michael Soares is managing this WQ project. The Ten Mile River in Lebanon, one of the TLGV conventional

bacteria monitoring stations, is overlapping with the UCONN RCPP PATH project. Michael shared preliminary data with the committee.

- The French River Connection, Charlton Lakes and Ponds group and Webster Lake Association were assisted with their preparations to conduct in monitoring in Massachusetts.
- Amos Lake Association was not able to conduct their spring lake sampling due to boat issues. Summer monitoring scheduled for August 23.
- Water was the featured topic in TLGV's In Touch Magazine/annual report. Volunteers should look for their pictures/stories in the report.
- Arrangements were made for EPA Region 1 to give a half day training workshop for lake groups interested in monitoring for cyanobacteria. (Aug 8)
- RBV data from DEEP FINALLY received for 2016 season. Raw data shared with the committee. Intern Luke was asked to review past year RBV data forms to actual DEEP results based on voucher submitted. Info to be used to improve training on insects commonly misidentified.
- RBV training preliminarily set for September 8 and 9.
- CT Audubon Society will no longer be supporting RBV programs. Experienced team leaders from previous years will hopefully be willing to work with the new trainees.

#### Agency Reports:

##### MA DEP Report:

Therese Beaudoin shared a handout printed from the MA DEP website.

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/resources/n-thru-y/overview16.pdf>.

MA data backlog and reference backlogs have been addressed. The 2016 MA Water Quality Assessment Report will be released soon.

Work is expected to begin this fall on the Hammant Brook restoration project in Sturbridge. This project is being funded as a condition of approval for the Millenium Power Plant in Charlton.

##### ECCD Report:

The Mashamoquet Brook Septic System upgrades project has not yet had any requests for septic system replacement rebates. Based on data obtained in ongoing PATH project, ECCD will be requesting to expand the project to the Wappaquia Brook watershed, where human biomarkers were shown in E. coli samples.

A watershed based plan for the CT portion of the French River is partially drafted. A stormwater retrofit demonstration projects is in the design phase at the Thompson public library.

A woodchip bioreactor is in process of being installed to intercept tile drainage from a farm field in South Woodstock.

A silage leachate collection system and stormwater diversion project in being installed as another farm in South Woodstock.

The second year of edge of field water quality monitoring on a third farm in Woodstock is underway.

##### Updates from Water Quality Monitoring Teams:

Lebanon: Dennis Latchum led a team to collect bacteria samples in 4 Lebanon streams for the second year. 8 weeks of monitoring ended on Aug 1.

Dennis is also assisting with the PATH sampling.

Four HOBO temp loggers were placed in main streams. Two borrowed from DEEP.

Dennis was able to participate in fish surveys with Neal Hagstrom.

Webster Lake Association:

Spring Monitoring has been completed. Summer monitoring is scheduled for August 20, 2017. A fall monitoring is also planned.

Amos Lake:

Mid-summer monitoring scheduled for Aug 23, 2017.

Amos Lake Association sponsored a town wide soil test day. 36 people participated.

They are continuing to adjust their variable milfoil management plan. The herbicide treatment did not contain the infestation. Reviewing alternate methods including benthic barriers and mechanical harvesting using divers.

Continuing to promote Low Impact Development site evaluations of lakeside properties.

Charlton Lakes and Ponds:

Six ponds in the group. Ziggy Waraszkiwicz monitors South Charlton Reservoir and offers to assist other ponds to participate, but there has been no interest from other ponds yet this season. South Charlton Res monitored April, May, June and scheduled for August. July skipped due to a milfoil treatment. Water temperatures are cooler this year and lower dissolved oxygen on the bottom of the lake.

Ziggy participated in an outreach event at the US ACE Buffemville with 15 other exhibitors.

Special Presentation:

Jeff Hollister of US EPA gave a presentation on the Cyanobacteria Monitoring Collaborative <https://cyanos.org/>, which is three coordinated monitoring projects to locate and understand harmful Cyanobacteria. Cyanobacteria, formerly known as blue green algae, can potentially produce toxins. Blooms are caused by high nutrients, particularly phosphorus, higher temperatures and temperature stratification in lakes. Blooms may cause dermatitis and release neurotoxins and hepatotoxins. Cyanobacteria also make drinking water smell and taste bad. The worst cyanobacteria blooms generally occur in summer when the water temperature is >25°C. The Cyanobacteria Monitoring Collaborative is broken down into three main projects:

Bloom Watch – a phone app for reporting cyanobacteria blooms

Cyanoscope – collecting samples and submitting digital images of individual cells for identification following specific protocols.

Cyanomonitoring – using a fluoroscope for determining typical pigments associated with cyanobacteria.

After reviewing the hows and whys of collecting cyanobacteria information and a lunch break, Jeff demonstrated how to use the equipment by collecting samples from Roseland Lake.

Images of cyanobacteria uploaded through the cyanomonitoring program are identified through a community of naturalists involved with the iNaturalist website <https://www.inaturalist.org/>. Identifications will be upgraded to research grade only after a committee of experts approve the identification. Data sharing will help the scientific community have more information on the extent of water quality issues from cyanobacteria blooms. Further testing for algal toxins are not

part of this program, but it was discussed how to collect samples and where to bring them for analysis if that is a concern.

These meeting notes will not be considered final until approved by consensus at the next TLGV Water Advisory Committee meeting. The next meeting will be held on November 14, 2017 in TLGV conference room.