



Thames River Basin Partnership January 17, 2017 Meeting Notes

Attendance: Jean Pillo, Dan Mullins, Maura Robie, Michael Soares, ECCD; Anne Roberts Pierson, ECCD/Groton Open Space Association (GOSA); Marc Cohen, ASRWVA; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP, Susan Sutherland, Joellen Anderson, Avalonia Land Conservancy; Jean Cass, Woodstock resident; ECCD; Susan Hotchkiss, Preston Inland Wetlands; Lou Burch, Citizens Campaign for the Environment; Sam Alexander, SCCOG.

The meeting was held at the USDA NRCS Service Center Conference Room, Norwich, CT.

Meeting notes for October 18, 2016 were approved by consensus.

Special Presentation

Lou Burch, CT Program Director from the Citizens Campaign for the Environment presented an overview of the process to develop a statewide Water Plan for the State of Connecticut. The water plan will serve as a framework on which the CT Legislature will act to either accept/adopt, restructure or reject in the development of a final plan. The development of a State Water Plan is required under Public Act 14-163. In his presentation, he summarized the history of what has been completed and what next steps will take place and how to get involved in the process. He also overviewed some challenges to the process.

TRBP Financial Report

Beginning balance \$2098.50

Meeting refreshments/supplies for October meeting –(\$26.33)

GoDaddy website and 2 domain names renewal for 1 year –(\$137.18)

Donations from # givingtuesday appeal \$250.00

Final balance = \$2184.99

TRBP Coordinator's Report

A support letter was prepared for Roseland Park (Woodstock, CT) for a CT Recreation Trails Grant to support the installation of a handicap accessible fishing area and improvements to the new restroom area to be compliant with ADA standards. This project is compatible to TRBP Plan of Work goal 5D Work with partners to assess and develop access sites for small boats and fishing within the Thames River Basin to promote stewardship of natural resources through public access for recreation.

#GivingTuesday funding appeal - initiated a funding appeal to raise the amount of cash match funding to support the development of an updated TRBP website. To date, \$250 was donated directly. One donation will be matched with a \$50 donation from Pfizer. Thank you letters were mailed to each donor.

The TRBP website continues to be static. The website is available, but the TRBP Coordinator is unable to edit the TRBP website. Microsoft ended their support of FrontPage, the software used to develop the current website. In the interim, TLGV has devoted space on their website for a limited TRBP page. Recent meeting agendas, notes, newsletters and this year's Floating Workshop summary slide show can be downloaded from there.

<http://thelastgreenvalley.org/learn-protect/watershed-protection/thames-river-basin-partnership/>

An application for funding from an Environmental Professionals of Connecticut (EPOC) grant to support the development of a new TRBP website has been drafted and reviewed by members of the steering committee. The grant application includes a cash match of \$1000 from the TRBP bank account as approved at last quarter's TRBP meeting and the donations we got through the #givingTuesday fundraiser. The grant request for \$3700 is due in March.

TRBP Floating Workshop 17 update – the barn at Roseland Park has been reserved for June 9. Anyone interested in serving on the FW17 planning committee should notify Jean Pillo.

The next meeting will be on April 18, 2017 (location TBD). The Nature Conservancy will give a presentation on their recent Southeastern CT Regional Coastal Resilience Process.

CLEAR has been requested to give a presentation on the updated CT ECOMap project at the July meeting, but would require the meeting to be rescheduled to the last week of July due to schedule conflicts. A discussion on whether to change the meeting date, or to schedule the presentation at night to attract a broader audience of non-professional conservation volunteers has been tabled until the next meeting.

Announcements:

The Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources is scheduled for March 13, 2017. Watch the TRBP Facebook Page for further updates.

The Woodstock Conservation Commission will be hosting a presentation featuring Paula Coughlin, Citizen Science Coordinator from the CT Audubon Society Center at Pomfret. Her presentation will be an overview of the data she and her volunteers have collected in Woodstock since the program started.

Partner Reports

TRBP Partner Reports will be compiled into the Thames River Basin Partnership Partners in Action Report available for download from The Last Green Valley website.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2017. Meeting location and special presentation TBD.

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