

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



**Tuesday, February 11, 2020
9:00 am –11:30 am
TLGV Conference Room
203B Main Street
Danielson, CT**

Attendance: Jean Pillo, ECCD and TLGV WQM Coordinator; Ziggy Waraszkievicz, Charlton Lakes and Ponds; Bill Purcell, NRCS; Jack Josti, French River Connection; Gloria Ricker, Webster Lake Association;; Dan Mullins, ECCD; Lois Bruinooge, TLGV; Pat Monahan, Amos Lake Association, Paul Shaffer, TLGV volunteer, Dennis Latchum, Lebanon IWC.

Meeting Notes from the November 26, 2019 meeting approved by consensus.

The TLGV volunteer team leaders presented their monitoring plans for the 2020 monitoring season.

Webster Lake Association will continue to monitor their 3 ponds and tributary streams. French River Connection will continue to monitor 16 stations with the multiprobe and 6 sites for E. coli if funding is awarded from MA DEP.

Charlton Lakes and Ponds will monitor South Charlton Reservoir 6 times and may monitor the other great ponds once or twice as season if supported by volunteers.

Lebanon IWC will monitor 5 streams to document cold water habitat.

Amos Lake (Preston) plans to conduct spring and summer monitoring

Ashford Lake would like to initiate a lake monitoring program including a depth profile using a multiprobe and surface nutrients.

TLGV Team E. coli will sample streams in the Natchaug watershed trying to bracket the source of E. coli in Chaplin.

TLGV Team HOB0 has selected 10 monitoring sites within the Natchaug watershed seeking cold water habitat.

Team Roseland Lake is planning to continue monitoring the lake.

The monitoring plans were approved.

TLGV Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator's Report

RBV – submitted 9 samples, data sheets, and site photos to DEEP in mid-December. Six samples were from the Natchaug watershed.

Extracurricular activities of RBV monitoring

- Suds and stringy fungus observed in Eldridge Brook in Willington were reported to the Eastern Highlands Health District. They investigated and conducted water testing. Parameters were normal on the day the water quality sampling took place.
- Two car batteries dumped on the side of the road by Eldridge Brook were picked up and recycled by Kevin Johns.

- Paul Shaffer's team observed a fungal mat coating the stream bottom of Reil Brook in Baltic. The fungal mat was reported to DEEP, who took immediate action. It was traced to silage leachate from an upstream farm. Enforcement action was taken.

TLGV Water Quality Monitoring Program Final Report and Match Report were submitted to Lois.

- In Fiscal Year 2019, 73 unique volunteers committed 965 hours to be trained in scientifically valid techniques and participate in the collection different types of water quality data from 67 unique locations. Through their effort, over 3300 pieces of data were collected this fiscal year. (more or less)

December 11, 2019 – gave a presentation at the Webster Lake Association on *Tools for Lake Monitoring, How to use them and what does the data mean.*

1/7/2020 – met with Sarah Crosby to participate in a survey on TLGV Data storage and management needs

Preparing for the 2020 Water Quality Monitoring Season

- Notified team leaders requesting their 2020 monitoring plans.
- Prepared draft 2020 E. coli monitoring Plan focused on the Natchaug River.
- Prepared draft 2020 HOBO monitoring plan focused on locating cold water habitat in the Natchaug watershed, coordinating with DEEP to fill data gaps.
- Revised effort to complete the Manta QAPP.

Upcoming – representing TLGV, Jean will be presenting on the volunteer cyanobacteria monitoring program at the March 3 Northeast Aquatic Biologists Conference in Newport, RI.

Agency Reports

NRCS-

- FSA is working with a commercial kitchen in Windham with outreach to small farms about NRCS programs.
- The 2018 Farm Bill includes funding assistance for 10 conservation practices that have worked well in Connecticut

TLGV

- Of the 55 existing heritage corridors, funding for 30 of them will expire in 2021, including TLGV. An effort is underway in Congress to combine refunding for all 30 national heritage corridors into one piece of legislation and extend the funding for 15 years and remove the lifetime. Each National Heritage Corridor is also working with Congress on their own legislation as a backup.
- Clean up funds are available for river or town wide clean ups.
- Spring outdoors is scheduled to kick off in March – June.
- A Community Enrichment grant will be announced soon.
- TLGV annual meeting scheduled for May 28 at the Girl Scout Camp in Lebanon

ECCD

- A non-point source pollution implementation project is underway in Ashford. Storm drain filter inserts have been ordered for the driveway access to the Perry Hill Estates, where the driveway runoff drains directly into Bassett Brook. TLGV volunteers documented elevated E. coli levels in Bassett Brook in a trackdown survey for E. coli in the Mount Hope River.
- The project at Perry Hill Estates will also include installation of cement dumpster pads to make the trash collection area code compliant.
- Research is ongoing for the Upper Natchaug River Healthy Watershed Implementation Plan. A series of workshops are also in the planning stages.
- ECCD is continuing to work with eastern Connecticut municipalities by leading the Eastern Connecticut Stormwater Collaborative. Both the Southern CT Council of Governments and the North East Connecticut Council of Governments are partnering in this effort.
- Planning for the Shewville Dam Fishway in Ledyard is ongoing. ECCD hired Milone and McBroom to design the fishway. An archeological survey of the site is ongoing, and an A-2 survey may also be required.
- Under the UCONN Regional Conservation Partnership Project *Path to Remove Pathogens from Agricultural Runoff* ECCD has established contact with two horse farms to sign them up for USDA NRCS Environmental Quality Implementation Project funds. One horse farm is in Pomfret. The other is in Stonington.
- Under the TLGV Regional Conservation Partnership Project focused on soil health, ECCD will resume Edge of Field Monitoring at a farm in Norwich once the weather is above freezing temperatures.
- The Muddy Brook/Little River Watershed Based Plan developed by ECCD in 2009 is in need of being updated to include new NRCS requirements. ECCD hopes to fund this project in 2020.
- ECCD is expecting grants in the near future to help purchase farm equipment that will reduce NPS runoff from farms in the Little River watershed. A million \$+ project is being developed for a farm in East Woodstock, and a contract for addressing stormwater runoff in Mansfield is also expected soon.

Amos Lake Association

- Seeking funds to hire a limnologist to interpret the data they have been collecting since 2013.
- Will be presenting to the Preston Board of Selectmen on the economic value of the lake to the town.
- Received a small grant to purchase bottom blankets to suppress small patches of variegated milfoil that has been spreading from the original site by the boat ramp.
- Seeking a larger source of funding to deal with the variable milfoil patch by the boat ramp.

Charlton Lakes and Ponds

- Expressed concern that winter drawdowns have been less effective for aquatic weed control due to more mild winters.
- South Charlton Reservoir is planning for a lake treatment for aquatic invasive plants in late spring/early summer using a weed fund @ \$100/resident

- Charlton hired a company to conduct bathymetric studies of the great ponds but the quality of the research was disappointing.

French River Connection

- Applied for a grant from MA DEP to fund a second year of E. coli monitoring.

Webster Lake Association

- Submitted a report to the State with a wish list of projects that will address stormwater runoff flowing into the lake.
- Evaluating weed control options for the lake

Next meeting date tentatively will be May 12, 2020.

Meeting notes are considered draft until approved or amended at the following meeting.