

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

Tuesday, May 19, 2020
9:00 am –11:30 am
Via Zoom



Meeting Attendance: Jean Pillo, ECCD/TLGV WQM Coordinator, Dan Mullins, ECCD; Lois Bruinooge, TLGV; Bill Purcell, NRCS; Janet Bellemy, Ashford Lake; Ziggy Waraszkiwicz, Charlton Lakes and Ponds; Paul Shaffer, Laura Miller, Bill Scalice, Cindy Wright Jones, Grant Jones, TGLV volunteers; Jack Josti, French River Connection; Ernie Benoit, Webster Lake Association

TLGV Coordinator's report –

- Jean Pillo's office has been relocated to 139 Wolf Den Road, Brooklyn, CT at the Brooklyn Agriculture Center with other ECCD staff. Her phone number is 860-774-9600 extension 24. The office is closed to the public at this time due to Covid-19 restrictions and she will be working from her home until further notice. The best way to reach her is via email at Jean.Pillo@Comcast.net.
- Manta QAPP approved by CT DEEP and MA DEP. Calibration supplies for multiprobe monitoring not ordered yet.
- CT DPH will process the Connecticut E. coli samples in 2020. Ground truthing access locations scheduled for the following day.
- Placement of 10 HOBOS planned for the end of the month. DEEP not supporting other HOBO monitoring this season by loaning equipment. Our HOBOS will be calibration checked by Dennis Latchum of Lebanon IWC. Unfortunately the Lebanon HOBOS are locked in the DEEP lab so Dennis will be unable to conduct monitoring in Lebanon this season.

Agencies Reports.

TLGV – Operating under Covid-19 restrictions. The office is still shuttered and staff is working remotely. Programs, including Spring Outdoors, have been impacted.

Discussion and development of guidelines for the volunteer water quality monitoring during the Covid-19 pandemic. A grant for Non-profit organizations up to \$1500 is available to assist with remote programming needs. Clean-up funds available but large group efforts are restricted. A clean up contest for individuals is ongoing. Planning for the 30th annual Walktober is underway under guidance of the local health officials. Print calendars are not being planned for this year due to the uncertainty.

NRCS Report - There are 93 Round 1 EQIP applications with a total estimated cost of \$5.3 million and 10 round 1 Agricultural Management Assistance applications for a total estimated cost of \$189,000. Round 1 applications should be getting funded at the end of July.

There are 46 Round 2 EQIP and AMA applications that applied by April 17th.

There is a Conservation Stewardship Plan application batching deadline of June 1st if anyone is interested in applying

NRCS is working with ECCD on two Path to Pathogen EQIP applications on horse farms.

Lucas Young, Valleyside Farm, was featured in the USDA's Plant2020 campaign. There are two pictures and a short write up about him on the Plant2020 website. USDA is also looking for stories about local farms supporting the local community so the CT NRCS Public Affairs Specialist is working on an article featuring Valleyside Farm and Elm Farm's two farm stores.

ECCD – Stormwater management at Perry Hill Estates is wrapping up. Two cement pads for dumpsters have been installed. Storm drain filters were installed over the open storm drains over Basset Brook. Rain gardens to intercept stormwater runoff will be installed when the weather is warmer. Pet waste stations also to be installed.

Hosted online workshops on well water testing and septic system care and maintenance. Programs were recorded and available for download.

Upper Natchaug Healthy Watershed Implementation Plan project is progressing.

The Eastern Connecticut Community Foundation will be funding additional coordination services for the Eastern Connecticut Stormwater Collaborative. This program is to assist communities with their MS4 stormwater permit requirements.

Shewville Dam project – land survey work is required to confirm ownership of the land where the fishway will be installed. DEEP stocking Alewife upstream in Amos Lake to encourage migration population is restored.

Anguilla Brook Watershed Based Plan – first draft expected to be completed by the end of June.

UCONN Path to reduce Pathogens RCPP project – developing manure and farm waste storage plans for horse farms in Stonington and Pomfret.

TLGV Soil Health RCPP – will continue edge of field monitoring in Baltic CT.

New Grants expected to become activated soon:

Manure injector and precision planning equipment to be purchased for use on multiple farms in Little River watershed, Woodstock.

Free stall barn design plans for Elm Farm

Niantic River Four town bio-filtration project to reduce stormwater runoff into the Niantic River using tree filters, rain gardens and rain barrels.

Covid-19 safety protocols were discussed with WQM volunteers. See list attached.

Team Leader Reports

Webster Lake Association – no team monitoring on the lake from a boat this year. Gloria Ricker will collect surface water samples for nutrient and chlorophyll a concentration at a lab. Streams will be monitored for Nitrate-N, and TP. TP to be analyzed at a lab.

French River Connection – will follow TLGV guidelines. Jack will limit monitoring team to family members. E.coli monitoring will be processed by Devon Avery at the WWTP where he works using supplies funded by a second MA DEP grant. They will be sampling 2X per month June – September.

Amos Lake – Secchi disk monitoring has been initiated. Milfoil bottom barriers to be installed over two patches of Variable Milfoil as an experiment for an alternate control method for eradicating the new patches in the lake. Funding by a Preston Community and Development Fund.

Charlton Lakes and Ponds – access to the Charlton Troll is uncertain as it is locked up in the Charlton Town Hall. Conservation Official.

Other business – by consensus, TLGV WAC meetings will be scheduled for the 3rd Tuesday of the Month going forward. Next meeting will be August 18, 2020.