

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

**Tuesday, February 15, 2022**



Attendance: Jean Pillo, ECCD and TLGV WQM Coordinator; Lyann Graff, TLGV; Judy Rondeau, Robert Smith, MA DEP; Eric Thomas, Ansel Aarrestad, CT DEEP; Gloria Ricker, Webster Lake Association; Ziggy Waraszkiewicz, Charlton Lakes and Ponds; Pat Monahan, Amos Lake Association; Cindy Wright Jones, TLGV volunteer. Michael Dorsey, Club 2087, Stewards of the French River); Cathy StAndre, US Army Corp of Engineers; Rick Canavan, TLGV Board member.

**TLGV Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator's Report**

The final report for Fiscal year 2020/21 was prepared and submitted to Lois Bruinooge in December 2021.

2021 HOBO monitoring data from the 6 loggers retrieved was downloaded and submitted to DEEP. DEEP will loan TLGV 4 additional loggers for the 2022 season so we can continue to monitor 10 locations this season. Tentative sites selected but need to be ground-truthed for practical access and other issues.

E. coli monitoring data from Natchaug River/Bungee Brook trackdown was shared at a UCONN Path to Reduce Pathogens meeting as an example of how far downstream agricultural runoff can impact water quality. An area of concern in Woodstock is the most probably source of elevated E. coli concentrations 10 miles downstream in Chaplin, CT.

E. coli monitoring planned for Quinebaug River in 2022 and will include additional sites as part of a source bracketing effort. Little River in Putnam and Jordan Brook in Thompson. Paul Shaffer has agreed to lead the program again in 2022.

An interpretation of the results from last year's pilot initiative to install an array of temperature data loggers in Crystal Pond in Eastford/Woodstock will be given shortly by Ansel Aarrestad of CT DEEP. CPA will be repeating the monitoring in 2022 for another season.

Confirmed that the EPA sponsored Cyanobacteria Monitoring Collaborative (CMC) will be supporting cyanobacteria monitoring again in 2022. The eleven sites on the list requested by CT DEEP are still our target for 2022. This includes 2 sites at Webster Lake. It is not too late to include new sites to the list. All kits not used last year will need to be updated with a new shipping label and one new bottle.

The CMC is planning for an in person meeting this spring for training and material distribution at the EPA lab in Chelmsford. Date and time TBD.

Results for previous cyanotoxin samples submitted have been available on request. The data that has been shared include:

- Roseland Lake for 8/6/2020 was a non-detect for Microcystins.

- Avery Pond sample in (8/13/2020) had a microcystins concentration of 2.5ppb.
- The Avery Pond 8/29/21 sample was initially above the upper limit. Upon doing a 10x dilution ended up with an average microcystin concentration of 7ppb between the sample and sample duplicate. Just under the EPA recreational criteria level of 8 ppb.

Fall 2021 Riffle bioassessment season concluded with 11 samples submitted to DEEP. Two samples were from the same location (Blackwell Brook in Brooklyn). The sample collected later in November had a greater diversity of pollution sensitive organisms than the one collected in September during the volunteer training. 2021 Riffle bioassessment official results for 2022 are not yet available from DEEP.

Biodiversity data is an indirect program TLGV volunteers participate in while conducting other monitoring. 2 freshwater mussel samples and several cray fish images were submitted with the RBV samples/data last fall. One of the mussel species collected in Pachaug Pond is a state listed special concern species previously not documented in the pond.

The Thames River Basin Partnership Floating Workshop is being planned for early June. The theme of this year's workshop is 50 years since the Clean Water Act (and in CT Wetlands Protection Act). The workshop will feature the Quinebaug River. It will include a program at the Plainfield Trout Hatchery. We are hoping to book some "dignitaries" to give a welcome addresses, followed by TLGV speaking about the Quinebaug River Canoe Trail/TLGV WQM program and all the other great things TLGV does that have positive impacts on water quality, some information on the status of the river from when it received untreated waste from the mills (if available) to the river is now a home for nesting bald eagles. A tour of the Trout Hatchery to be included. Following lunch, those that are interested will paddle on the Quinebaug River launching from the Brooklyn boat launch in the afternoon. If there is a demand for a walking tour along the river, I will request a tour by Bill Pearsal, Putnam Town Historian, to repeat one of his Walktober walks along the Putnam River Trail. Details are still under development. For updates, follow the Thames River Basin Partnership on Facebook or visit the website at [ThamesRiverBasinPartnership.org](http://ThamesRiverBasinPartnership.org).

**Special Presentation:** Preliminary Results from Crystal Pond Thermal Mapping TLGV Pilot Project by Ansel Aarrestad. YouTube video link: <https://youtu.be/sPDCJaKJqGY>

The 2022 Water Quality Monitoring plans were presented and approved by consensus.

## Agency Reports

### MA DEP

EPA approved the 2018/2020 Integrated Report. We anticipate that the final document package could be uploaded to the web in a few days followed by the geospatial data to MassGIS. Work on the 2022 assessments are underway (includes selected French & Quinebaug AU's based on available data). We anticipate that the related 2022 CALM guidance manual for assessments could be published in the next week or two.

Work in progress includes data validation, but data through 2020 is now available on-line. The Chloride project's monitoring is continuing at specific locations in eastern MA. We anticipate future monitoring could occur at selected sites in the French & Quinebaug watersheds. The Water Quality Monitoring Grant program selection process is at the stage for final administrative approvals (should meet the procurement calendar in the RFGP).

Two NPS grant programs are preparing to release RFRs this spring. The final amount of available funding has been increased with funding through the National Infrastructure Bill. The 604B planning grant supports watershed management plans and Best Management Practices (BMP) planning. Expected announcement will be in April 2022. Meghan Selby, 604b Program Manager: [Meghan.selby@mass.gov](mailto:Meghan.selby@mass.gov)

The 319-grant program focuses on BMP implementation projects. Expected announcement will be in May 2022. Malcolm Harper, 319 Program Manager: [malcolm.harper@mass.gov](mailto:malcolm.harper@mass.gov)  
MA DEP is looking for good proposals in the French and Quinebaug watersheds.

#### CT DEEP

2022 statewide integrated water quality report is not complete at this time. When a public draft is ready for review, it will be shared with this group for review and comment.

Water quality hotspots that have been reported by the public are receiving follow up attention. Inspectors have been deployed and remediation efforts being coordinated.

DEEP has wrapped up their technical prolog to the Natchaug Healthy Watershed Protection Plan (NHWPP). The NHWPP is an implementation plan prepared for the Natchaug River watershed in 2020. Once the inhouse review of the document is completed, the public review period will be announced. This may take 1 – 2 months.

Tighe&Bond is working on development of Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) required for water quality monitoring for thr Wastewater Treatment Plant for the Town of Webster.

#### ECCD

A large scale multi-phased agriculture waste project in East Woodstock is nearly completed. The final phase is the construction of a new free stall barn. The barn is in the process of getting the electricity installed. An open barn tour will be planned for the spring.

Two green school yard projects are in the planning stages. One will be in Windham at the Stem Academy and the other at Putnam Middle School. These projects will include construction of outdoor classroom spaces and hands-on learning stations.

The update of the Little River (Woodstock, Thompson, Pomfret, Putnam, CT) Watershed Based Plan is ongoing. This plan will focus on implementing cost effective agriculture BMPs.

#### **Water Quality Team Leader Reports**

Alexander Lake in Killingly is still collecting water quality data independent of TLGV programs.

Amos Lake Association presented their 2022 monitoring plan. As part of an Aquatic Invasive Species grant received last year, they have hired a limnologist to prepare a lake management plan as well as treat the lake for variable and Eurasian Milfoil.

ALA continues to work with CT DEEP regarding installation of boat cleaning stations at State owned public boat launches to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species between lakes.

Charlton Lakes and Ponds presented their annual monitoring plan for 2022. They plan to monitor up to 5 lakes in the association in 2022.

Webster Lake Association presented their annual monitoring plan for 2022. Their monitoring may be abbreviated in 2022 if they don't have a volunteer trained to use the Manta multiprobe as the multiprobe volunteer is expected to be unavailable this season. They will continue to monitor the lake and streams for nutrients and the lake for water clarity using a secchi disk.

**Other:**

Mike Dorsey attended the meeting representing Club 2087 (also known as the Stewards of the French River), a grassroots organization in Thompson, CT. The group is in the process of applying for their non-profit status. They were interested to learn more about TLGV's water quality monitoring program to consider incorporating water quality monitoring into their mission.

Next TLGV WAC meeting May 17, 2022.