

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

**Tuesday, November 15, 2022**



Attendance: Jean Pillo, TLGV WQM Coordinator and ECCD; Lois Bruinooge, LyAnn Graff, TLGV; Dan Mullins, ECCD; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Pat Monahan, Amos Lake Association, Tim Hotchkiss, Avery Pond Monitoring; Cindy Wright Jones, Grant Jones, TLGV WQM volunteers.

**TLGV WQM Coordinator Report**

HOBO monitoring – All 12 loggers placed in 2022 have been retrieved, data recovered, and post season calibration checked. Three loggers were pulled early due to no flow at the monitoring location. Thank you to Dennis Latchum and Gary Hoehne. Data has not yet been formatted for sharing with CT DEEP.

TLGV Manta 2 update – the Manta was repaired and put to use in monitoring Amos Lake and Crystal Pond.

E. coli monitoring in the Quinebaug River concluded on August 10. Little River in Putnam was also sampled at Murphy Park. DEEP requested data to be submitted through the WQX portal rather than as a spreadsheet sent directly to them. Fortunately, the WQX has great tech support. All 2022 E. coli data has been uploaded to the WQX and is available to the public.

The potential to encourage all volunteer teams to present their data on the WQX may be considered for a winter project. If there is interest from the team leaders, I can set up a training date on how to formulate the data for uploading it into the system.

Cyanoquest 2022. The eleven sites on the list requested by CT DEEP were still our target for 2022. A reconnaissance paddle on the three ponds on the in the Pachaug River system (Patchaug, Doanville and Glasgow) showed no apparent water quality issues with cyanobacteria in 2022 the day we assessed them. Loads of invasive plants were observed. Those three kits were reassigned. Webster Lake did not report any algae blooms. Their two kits were reassigned. No blooms reported in Witches Woods Lake in Woodstock, Gardner Lake in Montville/Salem/Bozrah, or Amos Lake (Preston). Blooms were observed and samples collected in Avery Pond (Preston), Roseland Lake (Woodstock) and West Thompson Lake (Thompson). Roseland and West Thompson Lakes were each sampled twice. A short duration bloom was observed in Ashford Lake prior to them receiving a kit to sample it. The bloom dissipated before a sampling kit was reassigned to them.

Fall 2022 Riffle bioassessment season is still underway until November 30. To date, 8 sites have been sampled and at least two more are planned. Of the 8 sites sampled, we believe that 7 of the sites had the required 4 or more pollution sensitive bugs to qualify the streams as compliant with CT Water Quality Standards. The summer drought influenced sampling locations.

Salt Watch. The Salt Watch program was created to monitor the chloride level in streams during different parts of the winter. Winter Salt Watch is sponsored by the Izaak Walton League of America and is open to anyone in any state. To participate, <https://www.iwla.org/water/stream-monitoring/winter-salt-watch>. Take a pledge and they will send you a FREE salt watch kit with instructions on how to monitor a local stream 4 times. TLGV has additional test strips for summer low flow monitoring as a means to seek information on groundwater quality as groundwater is the primary source of stream flow during non-rainy periods.

CT Lake Watch secchi disk monitoring took place Ashford Lake was monitored again this season, as well as Avery Pond and Amos Lake in Preston, West Thompson Lake in Thompson, Halls Pond in Eastford/Ashford and Mansfield Hollow Lake in Mansfield. If you have borrowed sampling equipment and not yet returned it, please do so ASAP.

In addition to water quality data, TLGV volunteers also help gather information on crayfish and freshwater mussels to assist the CT DEEP wildlife division in their knowledge on distribution of these two invertebrate types.

Water Chestnut was reported in Mansfield Hollow Lake.

Data collected by TLGV water quality monitoring volunteers is helpful to inform state officials on water quality concerns. CT DEEP had released their draft Integrated Water Quality Report to Congress earlier in the year. Comments presented by the TLGV WQM coordinator regarding water quality concerns in Avery Pond (Preston), based on volunteer collected data has influenced their decision to further investigate the pond as part of their planned monitoring for next season.

The TLGV WQM coordinator is finalizing the Annual Report and requests any volunteer teams that have not yet sent in their volunteer hours to please do so as soon as possible.

## Agency reports

### The Last Green Valley

A volunteer appreciation event is scheduled for December 15, 2022 at the Inn at Woodstock Hill. The event will feature soups, appetizers and a cash bar.

Photos of “Creatures of the Night” requested for annual report/In Touch magazine.

Information on water chestnut impacted waterbodies in The Last Green Valley should be shared with [LyAnn@TLGV.org](mailto:LyAnn@TLGV.org).

### USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

The most recent funding assistance applications round closed with 48 applications in Windham County and 30 in New London County. Many of the practices were geared towards reducing water quality impacts and climate change.

Twenty-one conservation practices for reducing climate change impacts are being supported through funding assistance through the NRCS. Most of those practices overlap with have significant water quality improvement capabilities.

## CT DEEP

The 2022 Integrated Water Quality Report has been finalized and posted to the DEEP website.

Mary Becker has been promoted to serve as the new head of the Water Quality Program at CT DEEP.

The Clean Water Act §319 Non-point source grant notification has been delayed. It is expected to be released in December 2022. The grant will include newer statewide priorities in the RFP.

CT DEEP staff collected water quality and bottom sediment data in Roseland Lake this summer in preparation for developing a nutrient budget for Roseland Lake. Roseland Lake is a natural lake with no dam and does not receive any input from wastewater discharge. TLGV complimentary data for cyanotoxin assessments will be useful information to CT DEEP.

## ECCD

Under a cooperative agreement with CT DEEP and USGS, ECCD will be managing a 604B grant from CT DEEP for water quality monitoring in West Thompson Lake and the Quinebaug River. USGS staff will be doing the monitoring to obtain data from which CT DEEP will develop a nutrient budget for West Thompson Lake. ECCD is responsible for grant reporting and data management. The Quinebaug River upstream of West Thompson Lake receives wastewater discharge from 3 sewage treatment plants and the lake is impounded by a flood control dam. This is a one season monitoring project.

The District is closer to obtaining final signatures for land easements required for the installation of a fishway at the Shewville Dam in Ledyard.

## Team Leader Reports

### Amos Lake Association

With funds obtained through an Aquatic Invasive Species grant, ALA was able to treat the lake with ProcellaCOR. The treatment appears to have been very successful on both milfoil species in the lake.

ALA is seeking State approval to install a boat washing station at the State owned boat launch. If approved, they will need to find funding to pay for its installation.

Water clarity as determined with a secchi disk has been generally good during summer 2022.

The ALA Paddles on the Water events, coordinated in partnership with the Preston Conservation Commission were successful.

Next steps for ALA is to develop fund raising opportunities to sustain their programing.

#### Avery Pond Monitoring

A beaver dam constructed in Indian Town Brook, the main outlet of Avery Pond kept the water levels in the lake high despite the summer drought.

A total of seven integrated tube samples were collected between May and September to monitor phycocyanin levels in the lake. Phycocyanin is a plant pigment associated with Cyanobacteria. The samples have not been assessed yet.

An algal scum sample was collected and delivered to the EPA lab in Chelmsford for cyanotoxin analysis.

SaltWatch testing planned for monitoring winter salt runoff.

Planning to expand monitoring in 2023 and begin monitoring sooner.

Next meeting scheduled for February 21, 2023.