

TRBP Quarterly Meeting Notes of October 16, 2007
NECCOG office, Dayville, CT

Meeting Attendees:

Mike Goodwin, Trout Unlimited Thames Valley Chapter; Eric Rumsey, Killingly Assistant Town Planner; Eric Thomas, CT DEP; Jean Cass, QSHC Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee; Lois Bruinooge, Dep. Ex Director, QSHC; Helene Holchholzer, CT DEP; Liz Rogers, UDSA NRCS; Elaine Trench, USGS; Marc Cohen, Atlantic Rural Water and Wastewater Association; Lisa Hayden, GVI; Jean Pillo, Coordinator, TRBP

Meeting notes of July 2007 quarterly meeting were approved by consensus and will be posted to the website.

Helene Holchholzer of the CT DEP presented an overview of the CT Statewide Forest Resource Plan 2004 – 2013. This plan was compiled by a variety of forestland stakeholders, not the CT DEP. It includes the creation of the CT Forestlands Council to function as an oversight committee to oversee the implementation of this plan. The plan is broken into 8 subject areas with working groups to focus on each singly or concurrently with another related subject area. TRBP partners asked many questions and contributed a lot of feedback to Ms. Holchholzer, which she will forward to the CT Forestlands Council. A summary of this plan is available on the CT DEP website at http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2697&q=322794&depNav_GID=1631. A link on this webpage allows you to download the Plan as a PDF file.

TRBP Financial Report

Date	Transaction	Credit	Debit	Balance
6/26/07				\$1189.68
9/18/07	Stormwater conference fee for Coordinator		\$10	\$1179.68

TRBP Coordinator’s Quarterly Activity Log

FY 05 TRBP Coordinator grant closed out with final report send on July 25, 2007.

Watershed restoration project at Poquetanuck Cove update

- Still collecting stream walk reports from a few stragglers. Review and report writing to be conducted November and December.
- Brochure produced and mailed to all property owners with frontage along Poquetanuck Cove or one of the tributary streams (sample provided)
- Rivers Alliance “streamside buffer” brochures will be sent out soon with further information regarding project
- Floristic survey underway. At least 3 plant species listed on the CT Natural Diversity Data Base as Endangered, Threatened or of Special Concern have been positively identified.

FY 06 TRBP Coordinator tasks

- Floating Workshop – completed, slide show posted to TRBP website

- Updating Plan of work – completed – posted as PDF on website
- Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Information & Education Outreach – pending
- Stormwater retrofit project
 - 2 steering committee meetings held, potential to work with town of Killingly is being explored. Met with Eric Rumsey, Asst. Town Planner and Town Engineer Bruce Chimento to discuss potential projects on Water Street during their Phase II redevelopment project. The Danielson section of Killingly should be a suitable project area due to the high amount of impervious surfaces in the watershed.
 - Using volunteers to collect RBV samples, the Five Mile River will be tested at multiple locations this season (data collected from 3 sampling sites already, including below the dam for Five Mile Pond).
 - Attended the Stormwater in the City workshop in Hartford on September 27, 2007.
 - Applied for a grant from the Temper of the Times Foundation jointly with the ECCD to produce a brochure on stormwater impacts on wildlands. (\$2450 applied for includes the services of a professional graphic designer)
- NPS Education Outreach
 - Poquetanuck Cove brochure
 - Newspaper articles in Norwich Bulletin, the Reminder
 - 3 Rapid Bioassessment for Volunteers training session (44 volunteers trained this season)
 - Walking Weekends (25 participants at the Little River walk on Sunday, October 14, including a reporter from the Reminder)
 - PowerPoint presentation to ECCD Board at annual meeting.
 - The TRBP website has been periodically updated.
- Quarterly Reports all filed on time

New contact information – effective immediately, the TRBP Coordinator email is changed to jean.pillo@conservect.org. The Coordinator has also been assigned a phone extension 860-928-4948 ext 605 at CT Audubon Society thanks to a major technology improvement grant the CAS received. An announcement will be posted on both the TRBP and QSHC websites.

Request from the Town of Putnam to be a Community Partner in support of a Brownfield Assessment Grant Application filed by the Town of Putnam to assess the former Putnam Foundry on Route 12, destroyed by fire on Labor Day Weekend. This facility is privately owned but uninsured. The town was given permission to apply for funding to assess the property to see if it qualifies as a brownfield. After conferring with the available members of the Steering Committee, I provided the following “Our organization can offer to be a Community Partner in support of this Brownfield Assessment Grant proposal by offering to organize a brownfield restoration informational workshop with an emphasis on combining land reclamation with the potential to

simultaneously enhance or restore riparian plantings and habitat to protect water quality from impacts of Nonpoint Sources of water pollution.”

Request for TRBP involvement in a small rain garden installation project in the Town of Coventry. The project involves the installation of a rain garden next to an existing municipal building behind the Town Hall. The former Wetlands Agent worked with Mike Dietz to get a plan prepared for the garden and also got some donations/reduced cost plantings from a local nursery. The Town Public Works Department will be doing the actual installation next spring. It really is just a matter of coordinating the work with the plantings and the general oversight of the installation. The TRBP Coordinator suggested to offer an educational hand out that describes the project. The project planners would like to provide for a sign that thanks the volunteers and others that were involved with the project plus other education and outreach. An estimate of maybe 5-8 hours total would be enough to work through the balance of the project. There has been consensus of the TRBP Coordinator Steering Committee this project would be a good opportunity to partner with the town of Coventry and conduct TRBP outreach in a part of the watershed where TRBP participation has not been active before.

TRBP Partners Reports

The TRBP Partners provided their updates on activities related to the TRBP Plan of Work. This information can be reviewed in the TRBP October 2007 Partners in Action Report.

Next Steps

There was a brief discussion of Goal 6A of the TRBP Plan of Work (Continue to enhance the Partnership’s organizational structure in order to develop a sustainable and balanced workload, while achieving desired outcomes. Develop metrics to monitoring plan of work - implementation measures.) By group consensus, it was agreed this would best be addressed at a separate meeting in early winter (prior to the January Quarterly meeting) Partners were asked to think towards recruiting a person with a specialized skill set for setting up workplans. A report of the outcome of this meeting will be presented at the January 2008 quarterly meeting.

TRBP Coordinator Grant status report

The TRBP Coordinator FY 05 (year 1) grant has been finalized.

The TRBP Coordinator is currently funded by the FY 06 319 grant (year 2). The 06 grant Agreement Duration is May 31, 2007 - June 28, 2008. This grant is for less money than the FY 05 grant. Scott Gravatt, as grant administrator, instructed the TRBP Coordinator to reduce the TRBP Coordinator hours to about 15 per week due to uncertainty about how quickly the 07 grant contract would be signed. This was to allow for continued employment without funding gaps.

On October 2, 2007, the ECCD received an email announcing that EPA has awarded the FY07 Clean Water Act section 319 Nonpoint Source Grant to the Connecticut

Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP), funding year 3 of the TRBP Coordinator position. The CT DEP will process the agreement when we feel we are ready to start this work.

At the July Quarterly meeting, TRBP Coordinator funding options were discussed, including the possibility of applying a grant for a 4th year for the TRBP Coordinator position. FY 08 319 grant guidelines are more specific, favoring implementation projects based on watershed based plans. After discussions with Stan Zaremba, the 319 grant coordinator for the CT DEP, Scott Gravatt made an executive decision for the District to apply for funds in support of a specific project for the TRBP Coordinator (Mashamoquet Brook WBP and implementation project). If this grant is awarded, the District will financially support the TRBP Coordinator, but at a reduced capacity (meeting coordination only) unless another funding source is secured. The deadline for this application was October 15, 2007.

The possibility of The Last Green Valley applying for additional funds for the TRBP Coordinator to work cooperatively in planning the “source to sea” event in 2009 was discussed.

Partners were encouraged to look for other funding options. There was general consensus that the Thames River Basin Partnership has benefited by having a dedicated staff person.

A brief discussion was held regarding the benefits of the TRBP sponsoring a Rain Barrel sale promotion. The Coordinator presented information from a company that works with towns and non-profit organizations. The consensus of the group was this would be a good outreach opportunity. The coordinator will follow up by making contact with the company to set up something for Spring 08.

The winter quarterly meeting date will be January 15, 2008. A location had not been determined, but several suggestions were proposed. The coordinator will arrange the meeting location and send out the dates for the year 2008 meeting schedule ASAP.

Meeting notes compiled by Jean Pillo, Coordinator
Thames River Basin Partnership

The TRBP Coordinator position is funded in part by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection through a United States Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grant. These notes are not considered official until approved at the following quarterly meeting.