



## Little River Healthy Watershed Collaborative Summer Meeting Notes

Wednesday, August 7, 2019  
Roseland Park “beach house”  
205 Roseland Park Road  
Woodstock, CT

Meeting Attendees: Jean Pillo, Dan Mullins, ECCD; Maureen Marcoux, NDDH; Pete Semenyck, Putnam Fish and Game Club; Bill Purcell, USDA NRCS; Eric McPhee, Abbie Davis, CT DPH; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Elaine Sistare, Town of Putnam.

May 24, 2019 meeting notes were reviewed and approved by consensus.

Little River/Roseland Lake quick updates since the May 24, 2018 meeting

TLGV - Summaries of Roseland Lake data from April – August 2019 were shared. Mini data interpretation summaries have been prepared by Jean Pillo and shared publically using the Roseland Lake Facebook page and with the collaborative using email following bi-weekly monitoring events.

ECCD - Tile drain survey funded by a National Association of Conservation Districts Technical Assistance Grant will be initiated soon.

A farm tour to highlight agriculture BMPs in Little River watershed has been scheduled for August 22, 2019. This tour will feature ECCD projects at Fairvue Farm and Valleyside Farm. An additional farm tour has been added as part of the National Conservation District Northeast Regional Meeting.

CT DPH – efforts to coordinate cyanotoxin testing were unsuccessful.

Pillo informed the group she had been contacted by Ted Lavery at EPA Region 1 who was interested in sampling in the Roseland Lake area, but that was not possible due to EPA staff being reassigned to focus on PFAS issues. The UCONN lab was offered as an alternate lab for processing samples but no further action was taken by EPA.

Putnam WPCA – Brian Lynch, Superintendent of the Putnam WPCA was unable to attend the meeting due to a schedule conflict. Elaine Sistare, Putnam Planner/Engineer attended the meeting to report back to the Putnam WPCA but was not provided any information from the Putnam WPCA in advance of the meeting.

Pillo shared that Copper sulfate treatments in Roseland Lake were resumed in 2019 by the authority of the Putnam WPCA. The first treatment was June 13, 2019 where 60 acres of the lake were treated with a product called SeClear, a copper sulfate mixture. Pillo reported there was no evidence of cyanobacteria in the lake at the time of the treatment so the assumption was it was being applied to prevent the onset of a cyanobacteria bloom. This application was a little premature of the targeting application timing to be determined using water quality data (surface temperature and bottom dissolved oxygen indicators.) Pond and Lake Connection was hired to apply the lake treatment. The product label claims the product also removes phosphorus from the water, but the method how this works is proprietary information. A second treatment was applied on August 5, 2019. The lake was experiencing a cyanobacteria bloom on August 5 with both planktonic and surface scum cyanobacteria forms, and had been for several weeks at this time. Pillo had been contacted by the Lynch, requesting water quality data be shared with Nick McMahon of Pond and Lake Connection prior to the second

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treatment. This request was fulfilled. In addition, Pillo shared a copy of a snail survey indicating that a special concern species is present in the lake, requesting that copper treatments to avoid the area where the rare snail has been documented, and recommended testing water samples for cyanotoxins prior to treating the lake with copper sulfate to make certain high concentrations of cyanotoxins would not be released into the water after the cells died and broke open. No further information was available after this correspondence.

The meeting attendees formulated a list of questions for Pillo to ask Mr. Lynch after the meeting.

1. How much area of the lake was treated with copper sulfate on August 5, 2019?
2. Was a surfactant added to the formula to make it more effective in controlling the Lyngbya (filamentous floating algae scum)?
3. Were the known disc gyro snail areas avoided during the treatment of the lake?
4. Does the contractor provide a post treatment report, and if so, are you willing to share the information?
5. Is Putnam looking further upstream in the Roseland Lake tributaries for the disc gyro snails in the event that the copper treatment is toxic and depletes the population in the lake?
6. Was a cyanotoxin screen completed prior to treating the lake with copper? If not, was there any period post-treatment that the intake at the downstream water treatment plant was closed as a precaution?
7. What is the cost per treatment?

USDA NRCS – Bill Purcell investigated whether there was data in the NRCS files related to tile drain installation in the watershed, but found none other than an old photo of tile drains being installed at the Hibbard Farm. He estimated that 25- 50% of the fields at that farm had tile drainage installed. Since 1985, farms need to report to NRCS if installing tile drainage. Kip Kolesinskas and Alicia at FSA were referred to for obtaining further information.

Questions were raised regarding CT Department of Agriculture Farmland Restoration Program and whether new tile drainage is currently being installed.

DEEP – TLGV Roseland Lake monitoring data is being shared interoffice with the Water Quality Assessment Program, Don Gonyea in the pesticide permitting program and Joe Wetterman of AG BMP program.

As for the EPA Clean Water Act 319 NPS grant applied for through the DEEP, EPA has decided that no Alum treatment will be funded in Roseland Lake until upper watershed issues have been resolved. DEEP will work with ECCD to fund several Agriculture BMPs upstream of Roseland Lake in critical areas.

NDDH – Septic system update at Little River Plaza, Sherwood's Restaurant installed a new onsite wastewater management system. The bakery and pizza restaurants are responsible for assuring their grease traps are cleaned out periodically. Due to staff turnover at the Woodstock Town Hall, the town missed filling a change in use (B100) report to NDDH when the medical clinic was given a special permit to locate in the plaza.

If the existing old system fails, the plaza will need to connect with the new system installed for Sherwood's restaurant. The new owners of the Little River Plaza have been more responsive than the previous owners.

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Putnam Fish and Game Club – members are concerned about the floating algae mats flowing downstream from Roseland Lake to their boat launch area. They also report that the water level in Little River is more shallow than it has been historically, making it impossible to access Roseland Lake from their boat launch during low water periods.

Woodstock Conservation Commission – is in the process of developing an education and outreach campaign focused on Pollinator Habitat that should have a side effect of reducing nutrient runoff. The project will launch on September 21, 2019 at Celebrating Agriculture Day.

Public Outreach and support - Roseland Lake Website <http://www.roselandlake.org> is being kept updated by a volunteer. The Roseland Lake Facebook page is getting a lot of traffic, sometimes reaching over 1000 viewers on certain posts.

Round Table discussion – Putnam/Woodstock should look into whether a STEAP grant can be used for an Alum treatment. It was questioned if STEAP grants will receive bonding funds during the current state level administration.

Should the Little River Healthy Watershed Collaborative appeal to state/federal legislators to see if the Alum treatment may be eligible to receive special funding from the state? If so, a Roseland Lake fact sheet will need to be developed.

Additional outreach targeting the Putnam Business Association, Woodstock builders and development of a Friends of Roseland Park were discussed.

Long term – look into other technologies for controlling cyanobacteria blooms. For example, sonification equipment. Obtain a white paper on how the technology works and consider inviting a vendor representative give a presentation.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for November 13, 2019. Volunteer data results to be summarized and reviewed for signs of any effectiveness of copper treatments.

These meeting notes were respectfully compiled by Jean Pillo, Watershed Conservation Project Manager for ECCD. They are to be considered draft until approved at the next meeting.