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Winnicut River Watershed Restoration and Management Plan

#PlantoLoveWinnicut

First Stakeholder Meeting Summary of Decisions, Actions, and Next Steps

Wednesday, August 24, 2016 at 3:00 – 5:00 PM

North Hampton Town Hall | Atlantic Avenue

Decisions

- River Assessment Units: Water quality assessments will focus on three distinct sections of the Winnicut River: 1. the upstream/headwaters reaches which are dominated by expansive wetlands; 2. the non-tidal riverine reach beginning in the vicinity of where the Winnicut River crosses Winnicut Road; and 3. the estuarine reach beginning at the Route 33 fish ladder.
- Dissolved Oxygen (DO): Based on analysis of stream and wetland morphology and existing data, it was agreed that the upstream/headwaters reaches will naturally have DO that is lower than the state Class B standard of 5.0 mg/L. It was agreed that data collected downstream of Winnicut Road would be appropriate for assessing the River's status with regard to the Class B DO standard, with the specific location of this assessment unit boundary to be determined based on further discussion and field investigation.
- Nitrogen (N): The estuarine N target previously recommended by NHDES in 2009 for prevention of low DO (0.45 mg/L) was agreed upon as a planning target. Since N is not the limiting nutrient in fresh water, a target N concentration was not selected for the non-tidal river reaches.
- Phosphorus (P): A target total phosphorus (TP) concentration of 0.027 mg/L was selected, based on the draft Vermont criteria for Class B warm-water, medium-gradient streams. Achieving this target will require a 25% reduction from the current median TP of 0.036 mg/L. Since P is not the limiting nutrient in marine waters, a target P concentration was not selected for the tidal river reach.

Actions

- Everyone had data, insights, and local knowledge to share. This is very important as we begin the modelling part of our process. By Wednesday, September 7, 2016, please share your data (up to 10 MB) via an email to Winnicut@NHRivers.org. If your data files exceed 10MB, please use this link to upload reports and other information. <https://jumpshare.com/b/CkLYpGILQJOEDKNdCrLI> If you prefer a different vehicle to transmit data, please contact me.
- Please provide your opinions, insights, and local knowledge, by completing the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Winnicutplanning>
- Continue the discussion and share information and pictures via social media: #PlantoLoveWinnicut



What happens next?

- There is a little under a year to complete this process, which is very ambitious for a watershed plan. Your work this week made all the difference to keep us within that time line.
- The Steering Committee will be working the project consulting team to model the watershed based on the geographic divisions and water quality impairment targets that you set this week. The Steering Committee will provide period updates through messages like this one.
- In the meantime, please visit <http://nhrivers.org/winnicut/> to download our three newest maps. Who doesn't love maps? (Please feel free to link to these maps vs. posting them on your website as we will be revising them during the modelling process).

Michele L. Tremblay, President, Board of Directors

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