



Kirt Mayland
Director of the Eastern Water Project

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Denise Canning
Philanthropic Officer
Quinnipiac River Fund
The Community Foundation of Greater New Haven
70 Audubon Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06510-9755

Dear Ms. Canning:

Below please find Trout Unlimited's (TU) final report regarding its work to "improve water diversion and instream flow policy on the Quinnipiac River through advocacy and public education." For purposes of this report, we have separated the discussion into three sections: "public education," "advocacy" and production and distribution of our water report entitled "A Glass Half Full: The Future of Water in New England", although frequently the work for all three overlapped.

Public Education

TU gave the following presentations, among others, all of which focused on state diversion and instream flow policy, and in great part on its effect on the Quinnipiac River:

- Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources
- Audubon-Glastonbury Water Series
- Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District Annual Meeting
- Connecticut Audubon Board of Directors Annual Meeting
- Connecticut Flyfishermen's Association Monthly Meeting
- Hartford Sportsmen's Association Monthly Meeting
- All Connecticut Trout Unlimited Day
- Thames River Basin Coalition Conference
- Connecticut Water Law Conference
- Avon, CT Nursing Home

As a result of these numerous lectures, among the various legislative and agency hearings, the issues of streamflow and excessive water withdrawals are no longer a "new concept" in the state.

Advocacy

In 2006, TU drafted and advocated for House Bill 5277, "An Act Concerning Preservation of Rivers and Streams." This bill would have provided the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) the right to de-

grandfather the more ecologically abusive grandfathered water withdrawers, such as many of those that operate on the Quinnipiac River. They, like all other major water users, would have been required to apply for a permit to continue withdrawing water at their current rates. The bill made it through the Environment Committee but ultimately failed, in part due to the short legislative session. The impact of the bill, however, was far more successful. Following the widespread debate over the bill, the DEP decided to take a much stronger stance with respect to "grandfathered" water, claiming, for the first time that, with or without the bill, they had the legal authority to impose "streamflow" conditions on major water users (see attached *Waterbury Republican* article).

TU also continued to participate in monthly meetings at the DEP as part of a task force mandated to draft the new streamflow standards pursuant to Public Act 05-142. These standards will most likely be completed over the next year, and once approved by the legislature will ensure ecologically protective flows on the Quinnipiac River. With these standards in place, and the DEP's position that they can impose such standards on grandfathered water users, the Quinnipiac River ecosystem should eventually see drastic improvements.

A Glass Half Full. The Future of Water in New England

As part of the special conditions of the grant, TU was to create a 2-page stand-alone document to be given to legislators and the DEP. As work on the document, progressed, however, we thought it would be more effective to instead highlight the problems with water withdrawals on the Quinnipiac River as part of its New England water report (see attached). We dedicated two pages in this report to the Quinnipiac River, as opposed to the half-page case studies we dedicated to various other rivers.

Along with the production of the report, which was distributed to numerous legislators and DEP officials, we arranged several editorial visits to promote the report and the problems and solutions it described. As a result, several positive editorials resulted, including one from *The Day* and another from the *New Haven Register*, both which discussed the streamflow problems on the Quinnipiac River (see attached).

We feel that substantial progress was achieved with respect to solving the streamflow problems on the Quinnipiac River. TU thanks the both the Quinnipiac River Fund and The Community Foundation of Greater New Haven for the grant and looks forward to continuing to work on streamflow issues on the Quinnipiac River in years to come. Please feel free to call us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Kirt Mayland