Niantic River Watershed Monitoring
Working Group Meeting

Date: January 13th 2010
Time: 4-6 pm
Place: Waterford Town Hall

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:
Present: Sarah Lamagna, Eric Thomas, Don Landers, Maureen Fitzgerald (part of the time),
Fred Grimsey, Bob DeSanto, Dave Turner, Don Danila, Kim Barber, John Jasper
Absent: Richard Mason, Katherine Burton
Regrets: Chris Tomichek, Franca Parra

1. **Introductions**

    i. Attendees introduced themselves. Suzanne Thompson is a radio host on WLIS 1420 AM/WMRD 1150 AM and a journalist for the Lyme Times.

2. **Frank Bohlen Speaking**

    i. An email and phone message was left with Frank Bohlen to come and speak to the group about the data being collected around the railroad crossing in regards to the change in flow (more details to come).

3. **Riparian Buffers Grant with SeaGrant**

    i. Discussed updates with the riparian buffers grant with Juliana Barret of SeaGrant. The Niantic River Watershed Coordinator will be helping out Juliana with conducting 2 workshops: one for town officials and one focused towards landscapers. Also Eric raised a question which will be discussed further with Juliana about the mapping that's been done on riparian buffer areas by NEMO.

4. **Library Space**

    i. We decided as a group that nobody should take anything out of the library yet and we should focus on putting information into the library.
    ii. Sarah will speak to Rov Rubenstein (the director at the library) and make sure the space is all set up for people to bring in materials.
    iii. Don and Chris have already generated a list of the materials that have been collected already. Sarah is willing to collect that data and any other data people have and bring it to the library.
    iv. The library would like the material to be in digital format when we can.

5. Material Collection

    i. Again, Don and Chris have a list. Anybody can drop the information off at the library but Rov has expressed that the library would prefer to only have a couple people drop things off. Again, Sarah has offered to do this.

    ii. Katherine Burton has a lot of historical articles and information regarding the Niantic River.

6. Data – Report Cards, Management Outline, etc.

    i. Dave Turner created a Data Management Outline to help us start thinking about what we need to do

        a. Data Management Outline is attached at the end of the minutes

        b. The monitoring group wants to create a Technical Subcommittee to look over all the data and start compiling the data in a similar fashion.

        c. Eric Thomas suggested we speak to Katie O'Brien or Mike Boshene at the DEP. They would be able to advise the technical subcommittee with their data management.

        d. Elaine Trench from USGS has done a nutrient trend analysis and would be able to help as well.

    ii. There was an interest to do a "report card" of the different segments of the Niantic River Watershed. Similar ones have been done in the Chesapeake Bay as well as in Massachusetts (Jean Pillo would know about this).

7. Meeting Schedule

    i. Tuesdays seem to work best for everyone. We'll be meeting every second Tuesday of the month from 4-5 pm or 5-6 pm (it'll switch every month) at the Waterford Town Hall Auditorium.

Niantic River Watershed Data Management Outline

I. Identify and obtain current and historic water quality data and biologic surveys pertaining to the Niantic River.
    A. Establish relationship with library to archive reports/data.
    B. Prepare an inventory/bibliography of reports/data obtained
    C. Continue to build collection.

II. Form a Water Quality Subcommittee for Quality Assurance (QA)
    A. This should consist of several people with a scientific background.
    B. Review and qualify the value of the data.
        a. Develop a QA checklist and evaluate ("grade") the data for usefulness.
        b. Data should be evaluated for type (general water quality, storm water, biologic, sediment, etc.), location (known and and/or consistency with "core" sampling locations), quality control, calibration and level of confidence.
        c. High quality data will be selected for Data Tabulation and subsequent use.

III. Select/develop an electronic data management system to input/tabulate "new" information.
    A. This data management system should allow integration with the Millstone data which forms the backbone of the data set.
        i. What is the system used for the Millstone data?
    B. This data management system selected should be manipulable to sort data by location, date, etc. and have capability of producing tables and graphs.

IV. Select specific information from dataset to input/tabulate (i.e., the specific parameters that will be input into the data management system).
    A. Find volunteers to perform data input.
    B. Perform QA/QC review of data input.

V. Prepare water quality data graphs to evaluate long term trends.
    A. Do we need anyone else on the team to provide guidance for data analysis and provide scientific credibility?
    B. Prepare timeline graphs to show water quality and biologic indices.
        i. Evaluate data for correlations.
    C. Do we foresee any subsequent report?
        i. Prepared by???
        ii. Any opportunities for collaboration with a University or agency?
        iii. Any opportunities for funding?

VI. Are there any data gaps that should be further evaluated by future efforts?