



Niantic River Watershed Advisory Committee

Minutes

Education & Outreach and

Monitoring Subcommittees Meeting

October 12, 2010, 4:00 - 6:00 PM

LTA Room, Waterford Town Hall

Attendees: Dick Conway, Waterford; Fred Grimsey, Save-the-River, Save-the-Hills, Inc.; Joe Mingo, East Lyme; Eric Thomas, CT DEP; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator

1. Welcome - Judy Rondeau opened the meeting at 4:13 pm, and welcomed participants.
2. Review of August 10 and September 14, 2010 Meeting Minutes – Minutes for the August 10 and September 14, 2010 meetings were approved by consensus.
3. Monitoring Data –
 - a. RFP- Judy has not received any comments regarding the draft RFP submitted by Chris Tomichek.
 - b. Status of Data at Waterford Library application – Judy contacted the Waterford Library and apparently no data has ever been brought to the library for storage. Members have stated they remember a box for data being brought to early meetings. Does anyone know who was in charge of that box? Judy will contact Pat Young to see if she recalls where it was stored. In the meantime, please submit any data to Judy so the inventory necessary for the RFP can be compiled. Joe Mingo stated he knows a person who may be interested in doing the inventory.
4. Outreach –
 - a. Teacher Loan Kits - Dave Turner has done substantial work in researching the costs for various levels of testing equipment and materials. It appears that we may be able to set up two levels of water testing kits, simple kits adequate for the needs of teachers to convey the basic components of water quality in keeping with the CT science curriculum, and more sophisticated equipment that can be used to support volunteer monitoring, and to obtain usable water quality data. In the meantime, we need more information from the teachers who responded to the questionnaire regarding their needs, and we need to identify potential funding sources to support the purchase of the equipment.
 - b. Monitoring Partnering – Several teachers had asked for help with water quality monitoring and were looking for partners or mentors. Eric Thomas stated that we should consider other groups as well, such as home schoolers. Joe Mingo stated that Eagle Scouts are always looking for projects, and have been effective in other projects throughout the watershed. It was the consensus of discussion that until we get the loan kit questions sorted out, we can't proceed with this portion of this Education task.
 - c. Buffer-in-a-Bag Concept – Joe Mingo stated the Town of East Lyme is looking into starting its own nursery to stock replacement town trees. He also stated that other towns have tree nurseries. Discussion focused on possible areas to target for this implementation. Joe Mingo

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Niantic River Watershed Advisory Committee

suggested Latimer Brook, particularly in the vicinity of the Lombardi gravel operation. Eric Thomas suggested town staff may be able to identify areas where permitted activity includes riparian buffer restoration. Judy suggested that subcommittee members identify areas in their towns where riparian buffer restoration would be appropriate or needed, and compile a list, which could be reviewed and prioritized. Joe Mingo suggested contacting Trout Unlimited, since they know where restoration might be needed and have a good track record for conducting riparian restorations. Judy will also review the Niantic River Watershed Protection Plan to see if it identified any areas for restoration.

- d. Clean Marina Program – Judy reviewed highlights of her conversation with Rick Huntley of the CT DEP, who oversees the Clean Marina Program. Rick suggested a program for late February/early March. Fred Grimsey and Marvin Schutt have agreed to assist with this task. Fred stated the program as it now exists is very difficult to comply with and needs to be revised. The Three Belles Marina in East Lyme recently completed the certification process, and will be approached to see if they would like to participate. Eric Thomas stated that we should make sure that the program offers assistance to prospective marinas, including solutions to common marina problems, information on funding sources, and so forth.
5. Other Business – Eric Thomas reported that the wastewater permit recently issued for Dominion has a requirement that Dominion must set up a Nitrogen Workgroup to investigate what information is necessary to determine nitrogen loads in the Niantic River.
6. Partner Reports – Fred Grimsey reported that the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation grant he applied for on behalf of NRWAG through Save-the-River, Save-the-Hills, earlier this year was not approved. He also reported that the third appeal on the Oswegatchie Hills development project will be held October 29th in New Britain. Eric Thomas reported that the CT DEP is amending its agreement with the USGS to conduct Year 3 nutrient, bacteria, and stream flow monitoring in the Niantic River watershed.
7. Next Meeting – **November 9th, 2010, 4:00 PM, LTA Room, Waterford Town Hall.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Action Items:

- **Please submit monitoring data to Judy for inventorying and inclusion in the Waterford library data collection.**
- **If you would like to participate in break-out committees for the Teacher loan kits, buffer-in-a-bag, or Clean Marina program, please let Judy know so development of these programs can continue.**

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