



# *Niantic River Watershed Advisory Committee*

Subcommittee Meeting  
Education & Outreach and  
Monitoring Subcommittees  
June 8, 2010  
4:00 - 6:00 pm  
LTA Room, Waterford Town Hall

**Attendees:** Kim Barber, Dick Conway, Fred Grimsey, John Jasper, Steve Loomis, Dick Mason, Joe Mingo, Marvin Schutt, Sara Schwartz, Eric Thomas, CT DEP, Judith Rondeau, Niantic River Watershed Coordinator

Judy Rondeau opened the meeting at 4:15 pm.

1. Welcome: Judy welcomed participants to the meeting.
2. Introductions: Participants made introductions around the table and welcomed Sara Schwartz, a college student who is interning with STR-STH this summer.
3. Grant Updates:
  - a. Long Island Sound Futures Fund/NFWF Grant – Fred Grimsey submitted this grant on behalf of the Niantic River Watershed Advisory Group and STR-STH. If approved, approximately 55-60% of the grant will fund board development; the remainder will fund implementation of marina pump out programs.
  - b. 2011-2013 LIS Research Fund – John Jasper and associates Frank Bolen and Craig Tobias have applied for funding to conduct research on *the Recent Sedimentary History of Eutrophication in the Niantic River Estuary: Riparian Erosion, NO<sub>x</sub> Runoff, and Eelgrass Debilitation in the Niantic River.*
  - c. FEMA – Joe Mingo had discussed the possibility of the Towns of East Lyme and Waterford applying for FEMA funds to dredge the Golden Spur of storm-deposited sediments at last month's meeting. No FEMA money will be available for this activity but the First Selectmen of both municipalities are looking into other funding to dredge the Golden Spur and several coves.
  - d. FY 2011 Section 319 Funding – Eric Thomas reminded the subcommittee that the grant round for implementation projects for §319 CWA funding closes on July 30, 2010.
4. Update on Superintendent Questionnaire:
  - a. Questionnaire Compilation - Marcia Benvenuti compiled the responses to the questionnaire. Judy reviewed the results with the subcommittee, and will copy and distribute the results for next month's meeting.

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- b. Strategy for Montville and Salem Schools – Judy re-sent the questionnaires to both school systems and did not get a response. Joe Mingo stated the best thing we can supply to the schools is speakers to provide environmental education. Dick Mason stated we could help with the preparation of lesson plans.
5. Outreach:
- a. Marinas – Workshop/Pamphlet for CT DEP Clean Marina Program - Fred Grimsey stated he has been working with Three Belles Marina on the Clean Marinas Program. He is also working to make contacts with other marinas.
  - b. Local Schools – Workshops/Presentations – Dick Conway stated he has a model that demonstrates the salt water/fresh water interface available for presentations. Fred Grimsey stated that STR-STH has an enviroscape that is available for workshops and presentations.
  - c. Social Marketing Strategy for Homeowners – Fred Grimsey stated that a Homeowners’ Riparian Buffer Workshop presented by Juliana Barrett of CT SeaGrant is scheduled for July 30<sup>th</sup> at Petie Reed’s garden center in Waterford. Judy added that she is partnering with Juliana for this program. Judy and Juliana have conducted Municipal Riparian Buffer workshops for the Towns of Montville, Salem and Waterford, with East Lyme to be held on July 13<sup>th</sup>. There is also a Homeowners’ Riparian Buffer Workshop scheduled for Salem and Montville on June 2<sup>nd</sup> in Montville. Judy handed out workshop flyers for interested parties.
  - d. Celebrate East Lyme – July 17<sup>th</sup> - Fred Grimsey will reserve a booth for NRWA. Judy and Kim Barber have volunteered to attend.
6. Monitoring Data:
- a. Status of Data Inventory – Judy asked about the status of the monitoring data, and if anyone was overseeing the inventory. Subcommittee members stated Don Landers had been the head of monitoring data. Members also stated that Katherine Burton was in possession of historical Coast Guard data, and should be contacted.
  - b. RFP for existing data consolidation, analysis and report – Judy asked if anyone had experience creating a similar RFP. John Jasper stated he had similar information he could share. It was suggested that Judy contact Chris Tomichek at Kleinschmidt for information as well. Kim Barber also suggested that Judy speak with former NRW Coordinator Pat Young to see what she had in mind for this RFP.
7. Partners Report:
- Steve Loomis reported that he is in the process of preparing an annotated bibliography on Niantic River studies. He also discussed his upcoming invertebrate study, and agreed to present his finding to the subcommittee in the future.

8. Other Business:

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Judy stated she would like to schedule a workshop on Low Impact Development for the four watershed towns. She has spoken with Jessica Morgan, the CT DEP LID Coordinator, who is willing to conduct the program. This will probably be scheduled late summer/early fall since Jessica is currently unavailable.

Committee members also discussed inviting representatives from other watershed groups to come talk about their organizations, missions, outreach and so forth.

9. Next meeting - **July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 4:00 - 6:00 pm, LTA Room, Waterford Town Hall.**

The meeting adjourned at 6 pm.

### **Action Items:**

- ~ **Research monitoring data RFP**
- ~ **Possible education support/materials subsequent to school questionnaire**
- ~ **Possible implementation project for upcoming §319 grant round**