



# *Niantic River Watershed Advisory Committee*

Subcommittee Meeting  
Education & Outreach and  
Monitoring Subcommittees  
July 13, 2010  
4:00 - 6:00 pm  
LTA Room, Waterford Town Hall

**Attendees:** Dick Conway, Don Danila, Fred Grimsey, Don Landers, Dick Mason, Joe Mingo, Franca Parra, Marvin Schutt, Sara Schwartz, Chris Tomichek, Dave Turner, Eric Thomas, CT DEP, Judith Rondeau, Niantic River Watershed Coordinator

Judy Rondeau opened the meeting at 4:17 pm.

- 1) Welcome - Judy welcomed subcommittee members to the meeting.
- 2) Introductions – Introductions were made around the table.
- 3) Review of June 8, 2010 Meeting Minutes – Members reviewed the minutes. No changes were proposed; minutes were accepted as presented, by consensus.
- 4) Superintendent Questionnaire Follow-up:
  - a) Teacher training – Judy stated that she contacted all the teachers who responded to the questionnaire with questions about their specific needs, including if they would be interested in attending curriculum training such as Project Learning Tree. Only one teacher responded. She felt because it was close to the end of the school year, teachers may have been too busy to respond.
  - b) Loan Kits – Based on Marcia Benvenuti’s survey compilation, Judy prepared a list of materials requested by the teachers, including materials for water testing. Judy suggested that rather than simply give teachers materials, we create loan kits that provide all materials needed and education guides. Dave Turner and Chris Tomichek offered to create material lists for various types of loan kits so we can begin to review possible funding sources.
  - c) Monitoring Partnering – Several teachers requested assistance in matching students with partners to conduct monitoring. Discussion ensued regarding potential monitoring opportunities, other groups besides schools that we should contact, how to fully integrate a monitoring program into curriculums in a manner that would benefit both students and monitoring groups/researchers.

*Niantic River Watershed* \_\_\_\_\_

*... a Treasure Worth Protecting*  
[www.nianticriverwatershed.org](http://www.nianticriverwatershed.org)



## *Niantic River Watershed Advisory Committee*

- d) Other? - Discussion regarding publicity took place including need to get events into the public view via newspaper, community public television, informational brochures and displays. Eric Thomas reminded members to contact Judy regarding events.
- 5) Outreach:
- a) Buffer-in-a-Bag Concept – Judy briefly reviewed this concept as a possible implementation project for the Outreach group. It originated with the Maryland Forest Service and involves providing homeowners with a packet of suitable shrubs and trees for stream and shoreline buffer planting. Judy had previously sent a power point presentation to members and urged them to review it for further discussion.
- b) Other?
- i) East Lyme Land-Use Commissions Riparian Buffer workshop was scheduled for this evening, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the East Lyme Town Hall.
- ii) Thames River Basin Partnership meeting at Project O, Avery Point, in Groton on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Juliana Barrett will be presenting a program on Riparian Buffers. Interested individuals are welcome to attend. Judy handed out the agenda (which can also be found at <http://www.thamesriverbasinpartnership.org/calendar.shtml>).
- iii) East Lyme and Waterford Homeowners' Riparian Buffer Workshop is scheduled for residents on July 25<sup>th</sup> at Perennial Harmony in Waterford. Judy handed out workshop flyers for interested parties.
- iv) Celebrate East Lyme Day – July 17<sup>th</sup> - Fred Grimsey has offered space in the STR-STH booth for the NRWA. Judy will attend and asked for volunteers to also attend.
- 6) Monitoring Data:
- a) RFP for existing data consolidation, analysis and report – Chris Tomichek has agreed to assist with writing the RFP. She presented a draft RFP for participants to review and will send it electronically as well. She has requested that members review the draft and comment prior to the August meeting, with the goal of having the final draft ready by the September meeting. Discussion followed regarding whether a database already exists. Judy asked if there was an official “keeper” of the data, which is being stored at the Waterford Library. Don Landers stated he had put together a spreadsheet of all available data, but that no-one had been officially designated to oversee and update the data. Dave Turner asked if the data had been inventoried. It has not. Discussion ensued whether funding was available to retain a student to conduct the inventory, which is needed for the RFP. Judy will look into this.
- 7) Grant Updates – Closing date for the FY11 §319 grant round is September 15, 2010. Judy would like partners to be thinking about possible implementation projects to submit for this grant round.

*Niantic River Watershed* \_\_\_\_\_

*... a Treasure Worth Protecting*  
[www.nianticriverwatershed.org](http://www.nianticriverwatershed.org)



# *Niantic River Watershed Advisory Committee*

## 8) Partner Reports:

- a) Fred Grimsey reported that STR-STH has been working with John Jasper to improve their Niantic River monitoring efforts. They have monitored surface and bottom salinity under various conditions, with interesting results that bear further evaluation.
- b) Don Landers stated that he had attended the public hearing regarding the proposed lobstering moratorium. Discussion followed regarding possible causes of the decline in lobsters in the Niantic River and Long Island Sound.

## 9) Other Business:

- a) Judy is scheduling a round table with representatives from other watershed associations in CT in place of next month's regular meetings. This will give the three Niantic Watershed subcommittees the opportunity to ask questions about the various watershed groups' genesis, organizational make-up, projects, outreach and so forth.
- b) Judy is working with Jessica Morgan, the CT DEP LID Coordinator, to schedule a workshop on Low Impact Development for the four watershed towns, in September. The Dinosaur Place was suggested as a possible central location. She will update members as the process develops.

10) Next meeting: **Watershed Groups Round Table – August 10, 2010, 3:00 pm, LTA Room, Waterford Town Hall.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm.

## **Action Items:**

- ~ **Review monitoring data RFP**
- ~ **Research hiring of student to inventory monitoring data**
- ~ **Create materials list for educational loan kits**
- ~ **Possible implementation project for upcoming \$319 grant round**

*Niantic River Watershed* \_\_\_\_\_

*... a Treasure Worth Protecting*  
[www.nianticriverwatershed.org](http://www.nianticriverwatershed.org)