



# *Niantic River Watershed Advisory Committee*

## Minutes

Education & Outreach and

Monitoring Subcommittees Meeting

November 9, 2010, 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Conference Room 2, East Lyme Town Hall

108 Pennsylvania Avenue, Niantic, CT

**Attendees:** Dick Conway, Waterford; Don Danila, Dominion/Millstone Environmental Lab; Maureen Fitzgerald, Town of Waterford; Don Landers, Dominion/Millstone Environmental Lab; Marvin Schutt, East Lyme; Dave Turner, Montville; Tom Wagner, Town of Waterford; Eric Thomas, CT DEP; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator

1. Welcome - Judy Rondeau opened the meeting at 4:18 pm, and welcomed participants.
2. Review of October 12, 2010 Meeting Minutes – Dick Conway made a motion to approve the October 12, 2010 minutes as presented, seconded by Don Landers. All in favor, the motion was approved.
3. Monitoring Data –
  - a. RFP- Judy updated subcommittee members on the status of the RFP. No comments have been submitted on the draft RFP prepared by Chris Tomichuk. Please review it and submit comments to Judy and Chris. Judy informed subcommittee members that this task is one of the \$319 grant specified tasks that needs to be completed this winter.
  - b. Status of Data Collection – Judy spoke with Katherine Burton, who had been suggested as the keeper of the box of data. Katherine stated she had Coast Guard data, but she did not believe any additional data had been added to the box. She will copy the data and forward it to Judy. In the absence of the previously gathered data, we will have to begin re-compiling. Judy asked that members please submit to her whatever data they may have, in whatever format is available, or submit links or contact information so she can contact data holders. This is a time-sensitive task and we need to compile this data as soon as possible to complete the RFP.
4. Outreach –
  - a. Teacher Loan Kits – Marcia Benvenuti has agreed to assist with this project. She has contacted the teachers who responded to the questionnaire to acquire additional information regarding the types of test kits they use/and or would like to use. Dave Turner explained that a two-tiered approach may be necessary in creating these kits. The teachers have specific curriculum criteria and are looking for kits to help them meet teaching goals. We may want to consider the purchase of equipment that can be loaned to monitoring groups to obtain water quality data as recommended in the watershed plan.
  - b. Monitoring Partnering – On hold as we develop the loan kits.

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- c. Buffer-in-a-Bag Concept – Judy reported that no activity has occurred on the development of this program. She is looking for individuals willing to participate in a subcommittee to develop it further. Maureen Fitzgerald stated she would be willing to participate. Judy would like members to recommend areas they think would be appropriate for buffer restoration. Eric Thomas suggested we query the watershed town Inland Wetlands and Planning Agencies for recommendations.
  - d. Clean Marina Program – Judy reported that the Clean Marina program is developing well. Marvin Schutt and Fred Grimsey have been contacting marinas owners to determine interest. The owner of Three Belles Marina is willing to share his experiences in the certification process. Judy has been in contact with Rick Huntley of the CT DEP to conduct the program in February or early March. This program is also tied to the current §319 grant and is time sensitive. Discussion followed regarding the boat pump-out program. Don Landers suggested we distribute a flyer or a magnet with the pump-out boat channel number for distribution with mooring permit applications when they are sent out. He will prepare sample information for the December meeting.
  - e. Social Marketing – This is a project that is tied to the Yr 2 §319 grant. The concept was to develop a social marketing strategy for homeowners and local landscaping businesses that will provide incentives for retrofitting home landscapes. Judy suggested we distribute a coupon for some percentage off native plants (such as 10%). We would need to contact areas garden centers to see who would be willing to participate. Members suggested possible businesses. Members also discussed the possibility of distributing educational material, promoting use of organic fertilizers and so forth. A suggestion was made to contact CT SeaGrant for vendor and educational information. Eric Thomas suggested speaking with Suzanne Thompson to promote this project.
5. Other Business – None
  6. Partner Reports – Judy asked all partners to submit partner activities for Winter Watershed Happenings Newsletter.
  7. Next Meeting – **December 14<sup>th</sup> 2010, 4:00 PM, LTA Room, Waterford Town Hall.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.

### **Action Items:**

- **Review draft RFP**
- **PLEASE submit monitoring data to Judy for inventoring 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.**
- **Please submit updates on partner activities for the Winter Watershed Happenings Newsletter**

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