



Niantic River Watershed Committee

Minutes

Education & Outreach and
Monitoring Subcommittees Meeting
December 14, 2010, 4:00 - 6:00 PM
LTA Room, Waterford Town Hall
15 Rope Ferry Road, Waterford, CT

Attendees: Dick Conway, Waterford; Don Danila, East Lyme; Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management; Marvin Schutt, East Lyme Harbor Management; Chris Tomichek, Waterford; Dave Turner, Turner Environmental; Tom Wagner, Town of Waterford; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator

1. Welcome - Judy Rondeau opened the meeting at 4:05 pm, and welcomed participants.
2. Review of November 9, 2010 Meeting Minutes – Don Landers made a motion to approve the November 9, 2010 minutes as presented, seconded by Dave Turner. All in favor, the motion was approved.
3. Monitoring Data –
 - a. RFP- Chris Tomichek, Dave Turner and Judy made revisions to the draft RFP and submitted it to monitoring group members for review. A suggestion was made that a “deliverables” section be added as item IV, requesting a final report. The question was asked if the \$319 grant included funding to pay for the consultant (it does not). The grant task was to prepare the RFP. Additional funding would need to be sought to pursue the analysis. Discussion followed regarding to whom to target the RFP. It was suggested a graduate student pursuing the analysis and summary would likely be most cost-effective.
 - b. Status of Data Collection – Members reviewed the monitoring data and literature databases, and suggested additional information to be added, including MS-4 data, CT DEP data from proposed dredging at Bayview Landing and STR-STH water quality monitoring. Judy requested that anyone who has access to data, or has contacts with access to data please try to acquire that data for inclusion in the database prior to next month’s meeting. Discussion followed regarding how the consultant should format the data, including the benefits of an inclusive database such as Access, and of geo-referencing the data for analysis purposes. Don Landers mentioned an email from Larissa J. Graham, the Long Island Sound Study Outreach Coordinator at Cornell University, looking for organizations with opportunities for volunteers, as a possible source of volunteers for future monitoring programs.

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4. Outreach –
 - a. Teacher Loan Kits – Dave Turner and Marcia Benvenuti have been working on this project. Dave shared information regarding a LaMotte estuary and marine monitoring kit that would suit the needs of the watershed teachers. The kit is reasonably priced (under \$50) and includes “non-hazardous methods of testing saline and brackish waters for coliform bacteria, salinity, dissolved oxygen, nitrate, pH, phosphate, temperature and turbidity.” Discussion followed regarding creating a lesson plan to accompany the kits, volunteers to conduct the lessons, and identifying appropriate locations to monitor. Dick Conway offered the use of his freshwater/saltwater interface demonstration, and suggested it would be a good preface to the water quality monitoring kits.
 - b. Clean Marina Program – No discussion took place regarding this agenda item.
 - c. Social Marketing – No discussion took place regarding this agenda item.
 - d. Buffer-in-a-Bag Concept – No discussion took place regarding this agenda item.
 - e. Monitoring Partnering – This item is on hold as we develop the teacher aide kits.
5. Other Business – Dave Turner stated that it is not too early to begin to look for new grant opportunities to fund the coordinator position once the final \$319 grant runs out. Brief discussion followed regarding possible grant opportunities.
6. Partner Reports – None
7. Next Meeting – **January 11th, 2011, 4:00 PM, LTA Room, Waterford Town Hall.**

Meeting adjourned at 4:49 PM.

Action Items:

- **PLEASE submit monitoring data to Judy for inventorying and inclusion in the monitoring data collection.**
- **If you would like to participate in break-out committees for the social marketing, 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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