



Niantic River Watershed Committee

Minutes

Niantic River Watershed Committee Meeting

April 12, 2011

4-6 pm

Louisa T. Appleby Room, Waterford Town Hall

15 Rope Ferry Road, Waterford, CT

Attendees: Don Danila, East Lyme; Maureen Fitzgerald, Town of Waterford; Fred Grimsey, STR-STH; Don Landers, East Lyme; Joe Mingo, East Lyme; John Mullaney, USGS; Marvin Schutt, East Lyme; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator

1. Welcome: Judy Rondeau opened the meeting at 4:08 pm.
2. Review of March 8, 2011 Meeting Minutes: Marvin Schutt made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Don Landers. All were in favor of the motion, minutes were approved.
3. Watershed Coordinator's Report: Judy reviewed her activities for the past month. She met with Petie Reed of Perennial Harmony Garden Center to promote the "Landscaping for Water Quality" social marketing project. Petie is very interested and would like to participate. Petie also invited Judy to participate in the Joe Pye Day event again this year. Judy presented a "Landscaping for Water Quality" program to the Lucretia Shaw Chapter (New London) of the Daughters of the Revolution on April 9th. Judy met with Gary Goeschel, the East Lyme Planner, to discuss a Green yard certification program to complement the Landscaping for Water Quality project. Gary directed Judy to Art Carlson, the East Lyme Conservation Commission chairman, who is interested in this project. Judy spoke with Pat Young of the Eightmile Wild and Scenic watershed about their macro-invertebrate bio-assessment program. Judy met with members of the Friends of Oswegatchie Hill and East Lyme town staff on Mar. 21st and April 8th to discuss a possible riparian buffer installation project along the west side of Clark Pond.
4. Partner Reports: John Mullaney of the USGS updated the Committee on the ongoing water quality and flow monitoring on Latimer, Oil Mill and Stony Brooks, and groundwater wells at Pine Grove. John reviewed the results of the first two years of monitoring, including collection of nitrogen, phosphorus and bacteria (E. coli) data. John also presented preliminary nitrogen loading estimates.

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5. Discussion:

- a. Establishment of Board of Directors: The Niantic River Watershed Compact has been signed by the four chief elected officials. Copies were distributed to Committee members. Plans are underway to schedule a publicity event, possibly on the river, to celebrate the signing.
- b. Plan of Work: Several additions were recommended to the draft Plan of Work. Judy will update and distribute to committee members.

6. Monitoring Data:

- a. RFP Funding Opportunities: Judy is continuing to search for grant opportunities to fund this RFP. Subsequent to discussions with DEP staff, in order to be eligible for federal funds, we need to add a requirement to the RFP for a QAPP (quality assurance project plan) to review secondary data.
- b. Monitoring Program Development: The Monitoring subcommittee met on March 31st and had extremely productive discussion regarding the support of existing water quality monitoring programs, and development of new programs. The subcommittee had a second meeting scheduled for April 14th to assist with streamlining the STR-STH water quality monitoring program. Judy's colleague at ECCD has just had a volunteer water quality monitoring QAPP approved. She will see if it can be borrowed and adapted to cover water quality monitoring in the Niantic watershed.

7. Outreach:

- a. Teacher Loan Kits: We received the grant money from EPOC, and are ready to purchase the materials for the teacher loan kit. Next steps will be to meet with the teachers to advertise the availability of the kit, and finalize the teaching guide.
- b. Social Marketing Strategy Update: Judy continues to recruit nurseries and landscape businesses to participate in this project, and to promote the project among watershed and area residents.
- c. Watershed Stakeholder meeting: This is a major component of this year's \$319 grant. We have two possible concepts to develop. The first is a community-based event to coincide with National Estuary Day (Sept. 24th). The second is a meeting of stakeholders and researchers conducting studies in the Niantic watershed to educate and inform each other about current work, to allow for sharing of information, create possible collaboration opportunities, and discuss the possibility of "standardizing" research to allow easier sharing of information. Fred Grimsey stated that there has been a request for a motorboat regatta to complement the kayak regatta held each year.

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- d. Rain Barrel Sale – June 18th (Saturday) – ECCD/NRWC will be conducting a rain barrel sale in the Niantic River Watershed on June 18th. Judy will submit a press release advertising the event to local papers. A location needs to be chosen for the distribution.
8. WBP Implementation
 - a. Clark Pond Riparian Buffer Restoration: As mentioned above, Judy has been working with the Friends of Oswegatchie Hill and the Town of East Lyme to design and install a demonstration riparian buffer along the west shore of Clark Pond. Judy would like to recruit the assistance of the nurseries and landscapers who are participating in the social marketing program in this project.
9. Other Business: None
10. Next Meeting: **May 10, 2011, 4:00 PM, LTA Room, Waterford Town Hall.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:06PM.

The Niantic River Watershed Coordinator is funded in part by the CT DEP through a US EPA Clean Water Act §319 Nonpoint Source Pollution program grant.

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