



Niantic River Watershed Committee

Minutes

Niantic River Watershed Committee

Monitoring Group Meeting

February 14, 2012, 4 - 5 pm

LTA Room, Waterford Town Hall

15 Rope Ferry Road, Waterford, CT.

Attendees: Don Danila, East Lyme; Maureen Fitzgerald, Town of Waterford; John Jasper, East Lyme; Don Landers, East Lyme; John Mullaney, USGS; Marvin Schutt, East Lyme; Kelly Streich, CT DEEP; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Chris Tomichek, Waterford; Dave Turner, Montville; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator, and guest Wade Thomas, Waterford Conservation Commission.

1. Welcome – Watershed Coordinator Judy Rondeau called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM.
2. Review of January 10, 2012 Meeting Minutes – Don Danila made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2012 meeting, seconded by John Jasper. All in favor, motion passes.
3. USGS Stream Monitoring – John Mullaney of the US Geological Survey summarized three years of monitoring on Latimer, Oil Mill and Stony Brooks. Key parameters collected included nitrogen, phosphorus and bacteria. USGS also collected typical field parameters including pH, temperature, specific conductivity, and turbidity. Over the course of the study, which lasted three years and was funded by the CWA §319 NPS grant program, USGS collected about 47 samples from the three brooks, and took approximately 60 stream flow measurements to establish rating curves for each brook. USGS used this data to model the contribution of nutrients from each watershed into the Niantic River. Preparation of the final report is underway. The report will undergo peer review prior to being published.
4. Monitoring Planning:
 - a. Latimer Brook Monitoring Program Development – Members discussed whether it was necessary to monitor below both Fairy Lake and Barnes Reservoir given the access difficulties. It was the consensus that it would probably be as effective to only monitor below Barnes Reservoir. Judy updated the group on the status of the EPOC grant application. This grant, if successful, will fund the purchase of calibration and nitrate testing chemicals. Eric suggested Judy contact Margaret Miner at the CT Rivers Alliance about their small watershed grant program.

- b. Other – Members held a brief discussion about the status of efforts to establish NRWC as a 501c3. The 501c3 subcommittee has met once, and has undertaken several tasks necessary to move the process along. It will meet again at the end of February to review progress.
5. Partner Reports – Eric Thomas reported for CT DEEP that the 2012 water quality assessment review is underway. Cranberry Meadow Brook, Latimer Brook, Oil Mill Brook and Stony Brook are designated as supporting aquatic life support. The Niantic River estuary will likely be listed as not supporting its recreational designation. The shellfish designations did not change from the last assessment (2010).
6. Other Business - None
7. Next meeting: March 13, 2012, 4:00 PM, location to be determined.

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 PM.