



# *Niantic River Watershed Committee*

[www.nianticriverwatershed.org](http://www.nianticriverwatershed.org)

## **Niantic River Watershed Coordinator's Report**

June 7, 2018

Good evening,

Following is a summary of my activities since the May meeting.

### **Outreach/Education:**

- Hole in the Wall Stormwater Classroom: The stormwater classroom was held on May 15<sup>th</sup> for third graders in East Lyme and Salem. I was not able to attend this year due to a project conflict; however, Eric Thomas participated and Victor Benni reported that it was another successful year.
- Niantic River Lawn Care Community-Based Social Marketing Behavior Change Pilot Project: Project partners and volunteers conducted canvassing in Waterford (Mago Point and Niantic River Road) and East Lyme (Pine Grove and Mago Point) on May 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. On May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> we applied stickers to trash bins of those homeowners who agreed to participate in the campaign. Robert and I are planning to visit the area next week to hang door hangers. We also would like to visit a few more homes to bring our "homeowners contacted" numbers to an even 100 per town. Next steps including identifying a method to evaluate message dissemination and expanding the pilot to a full-blown outreach campaign.
- Save the River-Save the Hills:
  - STR invited NRWC members to join East Lyme, Waterford and Montville high school students on the Project Oceanology research boat on a trip to the Niantic River last Saturday (June 2<sup>nd</sup>). I was able to attend and had a great time observing the students learning about water quality and LIS critters.
  - STR has received funding from the Community Foundation of Eastern CT to conduct social marketing/community outreach with watershed high school students. I have committed to conducting a presentation on projects NRWC and ECCD have done in the watershed to improve water quality.
  - STR has received funding from the CT Rivers Alliance for a "Get Pumped" Outreach/Behavior Change project to work with East Lyme High School students on messages related to septic system maintenance and pumping, proper handling of marine sewage and animal/pet waste. I've offered to provide assistance as we are able.
  - STR has received a new pump-out boat from CT DEEP. The boat was previously used by a pump-out program on Lake Champlain and replaces the old pump-out boat, which will be revamped as a water quality sampling boat for Niantic River water quality sampling (as part of the Save the Sound Unified Water Study).
- Niantic River Nitrogen Work Group: The work group met on June 4<sup>th</sup>. I was not able to attend but other NRWC members were present. I did provide work group leader Kelly Streich of CT DEEP an update of NRWC activities.
- Horse-owners' Environmental Awareness Program (HEAP): The Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area has applied for funding from the Long Island Sound Futures Fund Environmental Education grant program to reactivate this program. I have committed to participate as it aligns well with our Small Farms Manure Management outreach.

**Water Quality Improvement Projects:**

- Pine Grove Rain Garden: Planning is underway for the Pine Grove rain garden. This rain garden will be installed using funds from our rain garden initiative and the ECCD's LISFF 100 Rain Barrels/100 Rain Gardens project. A local scout, Sean Slusarz, will be leading the project for his Eagle Scout project, Petie Reed will assist Sean with the garden design, and his troop (East Lyme Troop 240) will assist the Pine Grove Association with the planting.
- Veteran's Memorial Park/Oswegatchie Hills Nature Preserve: Victor Benni and I reviewed this location for a rain garden for the 100 Rain Gardens project. We identified a site on the top of the hill overlooking Clark Pond by the riparian buffer planting area. However, I think this might be a better candidate for the NRWC Rain Garden Initiative. In any case I will be meeting with Friends and the Parks and Recreation Department to evaluate the site in the next week or two.
- East Lyme High School Rain Garden: I will be meeting with school and town staff on June 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss scheduling this rain garden. The Millstone Environmental Stewardship Team has expressed interest in doing the planting.

**Monitoring:**

- Stream Temperature Logging: Don and I retrieved all the temperature loggers but one on May 4<sup>th</sup> (the water was too deep to reach it). Once water levels drop a bit, we will be able to get out to the brook and retrieve it.

**Grants:**

- NRWPP Update: The DEEP Clean Water Act §319 contract for the NRWPP Update has been executed and we can begin project activities. First order of business is to convene the RFP committee and prepare the RFP to retain a contractor to lead the plan update.
- Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation: We were awarded funded from Dominion Foundation for FY 2018. Don Danila has received the payment.

**ECCD Projects:**

- Grand Street Water Quality Improvement Project: This project wrapped up on May 31<sup>st</sup>. We installed a total of 26 tree wells and 5 dry wells. The BMPs will disconnect approximately 18 acres of the 80-acre project area from the storm drain system, treat approximately 8.2 million gallons of stormwater per year, and remove an estimated 316 lb/yr of nitrogen, 43 lb/yr of phosphorus, 52,971 lb/yr of total suspended sediments, and 5571 billion colonies of fecal coliform/yr.
- East Lyme High School Infiltration Project: I will be meeting with project partners on June 19<sup>th</sup> to plan the installation and the rain garden.
- Eastern Connecticut Rain Gardens and Rain Barrels: As previously discussed, a site has been selected at Pine Grove for a rain garden. Dan and I also reviewed a site on Stonywood Drive that looks suitable for a rain garden. We don't have any sites in Montville or Waterford at this time. Please let me know if you know anyone who wants a rain garden. Sean Slusarz will be planning the rain barrel workshop as part of his Eagle Scout project. I will let NRWC members know when and where the workshop will be held as soon as it is scheduled.

**Staff hours:** In May, I worked approximately 24.5 hours on Niantic River Watershed Committee business and projects. Of that, 2 hours were for administrative activities, outreach and monitoring activities, and 22.5 hours were applied to the Behavior Change project.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy Rondeau  
Watershed Coordinator