



Niantic River Watershed Committee

www.nianticriverwatershed.org

Niantic River Watershed Coordinator's Report

October 4, 2018

Good evening,

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

Outreach/Education:

- Niantic River Lawn Care Community-Based Social Marketing Behavior Change Pilot Project: We have had several conferences calls to plan the follow-up surveys to evaluate the effectiveness of the campaign. We plan to conduct the surveys on Saturday, October 27th. We are also planning a workshop in early 2019 to share the results and lessons learned.
- Save the River-Save the Hills Watershed Seminar/Field Trip: I participated in the watershed workshop for Waterford and East Lyme high school students on Sept. 27th. Guest speakers reviewed watershed concepts and water quality issues in the Niantic River. I reviewed who NRWC is, what we do, and led a tour of BMPs that NRWC and ECCD have installed in the Mago Point and Niantic areas.

Water Quality Improvement Projects:

- Rain Garden Initiative: I have not had any new requests for rain gardens.

Monitoring:

- I did not conduct any activities associated with monitoring this month.

Grants:

- NRWPP Update: The RFP was distributed to a list of 11 consultants on August 13th, with a due date of Sept. 7th. Unfortunately, we did not receive any proposals. The RFP Committee will meet to discuss next steps. In mid-September, I submitted required reports including a Grants Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS) form and a quarterly project report to DEEP for the Niantic River Watershed Protection Plan Update grant.

ECCD Projects:

- East Lyme High School Infiltration Project: Planning is on-going for this project. DEEP is preparing an update to the existing contract to provide additional funding for installation. The School Department has entered into an agreement with ECCD to conduct the project and to provide a small amount of funding. The project is on target for next summer.
- LISFF 100 Rain Gardens/100 Rain Barrels: East Lyme Boy Scouts, led by Eagle Scout Sean Slusarz planted a beautiful rain garden on Laurel Street in Pine Grove on Sept. 15th. Petie Reed assisted Sean with the rain garden design, and the garden was planted with the assistance of the Pine Grove Association Neighborhood Beautification Committee. The Rain Barrel Water Conservation Festival will be held at Perennial Harmony (on RT 1 in Flanders) on Saturday, October 20th from 10 am to 3 pm. In addition to distributing (free!) rain barrels, other organizations in the watershed will be invited to promote water conservation and general good watershed stewardship.

- Four-Town Bioretention Project: DEEP is in the process of preparing a contract for the Niantic watershed-targeted project. ECCD will be installing rain gardens, rain barrels and tree filters (or tree wells) in each of the watershed towns (funded by the CWA §319 NPS grant program) in 2019 - 2020.
- Southeast Connecticut Stormwater Collaborative Pilot Project: ECCD in partnering with the Southeast CT Council of Governments (SCCOG) to develop a stormwater collaborative in southeast CT. The purpose of this grant is to bring together SE CT municipal highway departments to create a coalition to provide support, share information and create equipment and idea sharing to the benefit of all the towns in the coalition. The kickoff meeting is scheduled for October 27th in Norwich.

Staff hours: In September, I worked approximately 15.5 hours on Niantic River Watershed Committee business and projects. Of that, 11.25 hours were for core NRWC activities (administration, outreach and monitoring activities) and about 4.25 hours were applied to billable projects, including the Behavior Change project (1.75 hrs) and the Watershed Plan Update (2.5 hrs).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Judy Rondeau", is written over a light yellow rectangular background.

Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator