



# *Niantic River Watershed Committee*

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

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

January 3, 2019

Good evening,

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

### **Outreach/Education:**

- Niantic River Lawn Care Community-Based Social Marketing Behavior Change Pilot Project: During December volunteers revisited the neighborhoods we canvassed earlier this year to determine if the campaign had any effect on changing lawn care behaviors. Findings include the following:
  - Homeowners continued suggested practices if they were already using them, or changed their practices if they were not. One homeowner changed the timing of fertilizer application based on campaign suggestions.
  - Several homeowners reported that they had heard of the campaign and/or talked to others about it.
  - Few homeowners had ideas about how to publicize the campaign, but one was aware that septic systems contributed nitrogen to the Niantic River and supported the sewerage of Saunders Point.
- STR Niantic River Outreach and Get Pumped Projects – I continue to provide assistance and information to Suzanne Thompson for these projects. At the October high school student workshop, we discussed potential student projects, and raised the possibility of working with Waterford and East Lyme students to conduct water quality sampling of stormwater outfalls to the Niantic River, through the US EPA Equipment Loan program. I'm still interested in developing this program if the loan program is available this year, and we are able to obtain funds to purchase materials not provided through the EPA program.

### **Water Quality Improvement Projects:**

- Rain Garden Initiative: No new activity on this project this past month.

### **Monitoring:**

- No activity on this topic this past month. Meg Lally reported that our data, along with other data collected throughout the state has been posted to the SHEDS stream temperature database. SHEDS (<http://db.ecosheds.org/>) documents stream temperatures in streams throughout the northeast.

### **Grants:**

- NRWPP Update: I revised the RFP based on discussion at the December meeting. The RFP re-release is targeted for January 15<sup>th</sup>. I plan to prepare the first invoice to DEEP after that.
- Other grants: Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, EPOC and SWEP all have open grant rounds at present.

**ECCD Projects:**

- East Lyme High School Infiltration Project: ECCD is in the process of amending the contract with DEEP. We are preparing an RFP to retain a contractor to conduct the installation. The project is on target for July/August 2019.
- LISFF 100 Rain Gardens/100 Rain Barrels: ECCD has wrapped up this project for the winter. We have requested an extension so we can expend remaining funds.
- Town Bioretention Project: Contract preparation is underway. 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: The next meeting is scheduled for late January 2019 at the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) office in Norwich. ECCD plans to apply for additional funding from the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut to continue development of the collaborative and support to southeastern CT towns.

**Staff hours:** In December, I worked approximately 19.5 hours on Niantic River Watershed Committee business and projects. Of that, 11.5 hours were for core NRWC activities (administration, outreach and monitoring activities) and about 8 hours were applied to billable projects, including the Behavior Change project, the Rain Garden Initiative and the Watershed Plan Update.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy Rondeau  
Watershed Coordinator