



# *Niantic River Watershed Committee*

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

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

December 6, 2018

Good evening,

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

### **Outreach/Education:**

- Flanders School (East Lyme) Student Outreach: On Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, I met with Lisa Vaudreuil's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to talk about how the East Lyme High School rain garden is helping to protect Latimer Brook and the Niantic River. The students were very well-prepared and wonderfully engaged. I think the rain garden will be a great teaching tool for Flanders Elementary School.
- Niantic River Lawn Care Community-Based Social Marketing Behavior Change Pilot Project: During November Robert Burg, Holly Drinkuth, volunteers including Ralph Bates, and I revisited the neighborhoods we canvassed earlier this year to determine if the campaign had any effect on changing lawn care behaviors. Initial findings include the following:
  - Of the 15 homeowners [post-]canvassed who had stickers, six improved their practices as a result of the campaign.
  - Of the 14 homeowners who did not have stickers, only one said that she had noticed a neighbor's sticker, and she did not talk to the neighbor.
  - Many homeowners (at least in Waterford) said that neighbor to neighbor interactions is a great way to spread the message about the campaign.
- STR Niantic River Outreach Project – I shared Niantic River watershed and general water quality outreach material with Suzanne Thompson for this grant project.

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

- Rain Garden Initiative: I jumped the gun at last month's meeting regarding reimbursement for the Pine Grove rain garden. The association did purchase some plants to supplement the plants provided through ECCD's LISFF grant program. I returned the check Don Danila and contacted the Pine Grove Association to submit a request for reimbursement for materials they purchased.

### **Monitoring:**

- Stream Temperature Loggers: I conducted post-deployment quality assurance tests on the loggers we deployed last year, downloaded the data and submitted it to DEEP. I also sent the data to John Jasper and Don Danila for review and analysis.

### **Grants:**

- NRWPP Update: The RFP subcommittee held a conference call on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, which will be discussed this evening.

### **ECCD Projects:**

- East Lyme High School Infiltration Project: Planning is on-going for this project. ECCD is in the process of amending the contract with DEEP. The project is on target for next summer.

- LISFF 100 Rain Gardens/100 Rain Barrels: ECCD has wrapped up this project for the winter. We plan to request an extension so we can expend remaining funds.
- 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: 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 November, I worked approximately 39 hours on Niantic River Watershed Committee business and projects. Of that, 25.75 hours were for core NRWC activities (administration, outreach and monitoring activities) and about 13.25 hours were applied to billable projects, including the Behavior Change project, the Rain Garden Initiative and the Watershed Plan Update.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Judy Rondeau". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judy Rondeau  
Watershed Coordinator