



Niantic River Watershed Committee

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Niantic River Watershed Coordinator's Report

March 7, 2019

Good evening,

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

Outreach/Education:

- Niantic River Lawn Care Community-Based Social Marketing Behavior Change Pilot Project: I participated in a conference call on January 7th. I am in the process of scheduling meetings with Waterford and East Lyme selectmen and municipal staff to discuss the results and determine if there is interest in expanding the outreach from the target neighborhoods to a town-wide distribution.
- STR-STH Niantic River Outreach and Get Pumped Projects: A May 2019 workshop at East Lyme High School is planned to wrap up the Niantic River Behavior Change/Outreach grant project. Suzanne Thompson and I are meeting with Montville High School teacher Holly Moriarty and the Environment Club on Feb. 20th to discuss installing a rain garden at the High School (through the ECCD 100 Rain Gardens project). Laura Ashburn at the East Lyme High School Environment Club has also expressed interest in installing a rain garden at the High School (through the NRWC Rain Garden fund).

Water Quality Improvement Projects:

- Rain Garden Initiative: As reported, I have discussed installing a rain garden at East Lyme High School this spring with science teacher Laura Ashburn. Let me know if you would like to join me on a task force to use these funds up and close out this initiative.

Monitoring: Subsequent to my discussion with Sal DeCarli of EA Engineering last month, Sal has assisted Trout Unlimited with the preparation of a proposal for the Long Island Sound Stewardship grant that will include funding for a stream assessment of Latimer Brook. I don't think it will be as intensive an assessment as we were thinking was necessary, but could yield some useful information.

Just a reminder, the Monitoring Group is due to meet next month.

NRWPP Update: Proposals were due Feb. 15th. Four consultants indicated they would submit proposals; however, we ultimately received one. The subcommittee interviewed the candidate this past Tuesday (Mar. 5th) and will make a recommendation to the Board this evening. Work on the update will begin once the contract has been executed. Also, due to the delay in starting the project I have requested a contract extension to Oct. 31, 2020.

As a point of interest, one of the grant tasks is to develop an NPS project tracking database. Eric Thomas informed me that DEEP is working with NEIWPC (New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission) on a pilot project to develop a similar database. East Lyme has been recruited as one of three towns to participate. I don't know if and/or how we might fit (or be fitted) into this project, since our goals align.

Grants:

Grants currently open include:

- EPOC - grant closes 3-15-19
- Long Island Sound Stewardship Fund - closes 3-15-19
- USEPA Region 1 Stormwater Toolbox Equipment Loan Program – closes 3-22-19
- DEEP Clean Water Act Section 319 NPS grant - closes 4-3-19 – Among potential projects ECCD is considering is tree filter installations in the Latimer Brook watershed in East Lyme.

ECCD Projects:

- East Lyme High School Infiltration Project: ECCD is awaiting the amended contract from DEEP. The next step is to prepare bid documents to secure an installer. The project is on target for July/August 2019.
- LISFF 100 Rain Gardens/100 Rain Barrels: NFWF has agreed to a contract extension through fall of 2019. ECCD will be looking for sites for additional rain gardens and possibly also an additional rain barrel workshop.
- 4-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: Planning is underway for the spring meeting in April.

Staff hours: In February, I worked approximately 38.5 hours on Niantic River Watershed Committee business and projects. Of that, about 21 hours were for core NRWC activities (administration, outreach and monitoring activities) and about 17.5 hours were applied to projects, including the Behavior Change project and the Watershed Plan Update.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator