



Niantic River Watershed Committee

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Niantic River Watershed Coordinator's Report

April 4, 2019

Good evening,

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

Outreach/Education:

- Niantic River Lawn Care Community-Based Social Marketing Behavior Change Pilot Project: I met with staff from Waterford and East Lyme (Mar. 21st and 25th, respectively) to update them on the project and determine their interest in assisting us with expanding the outreach. Both are interested and willing to help. I will look for funding to support the additional outreach (possibly from LISFF which is currently out). I have a call scheduled with Robert Burg and Holly Drinkuth for Monday, April 8th.
- STR-STH Niantic River Outreach and Get Pumped Projects: The wrap-up workshop for students will be held on May 22nd at East Lyme High School. I will be giving a presentation on the high school rain garden and the upcoming parking lot infiltration project (they've already seen the BMPs in downtown Niantic). I attended one of two programs of "Septic Systems 101" at East Lyme High School (Laura Ashburn's class) on Mar. 19th and 20th (I attended on the 20th). Victor Benni and Danielle Holmes from Ledge Light Health District provided presentations on septic systems and system maintenance. I provided an overview of water quality in the Niantic River and how poor maintenance can impact the river. On the same day, Suzanne Thompson and I also visited Montville science teacher Holly Moriarty's Ecology Club to talk about installing a rain garden at Montville High School.

Water Quality Improvement Projects:

- Rain Garden Initiative: Dave Turner reconnected me with a property owner in Montville who is interested in rain gardens and/or a riparian buffer. We will schedule a visit to the property later this spring. At last month's meeting we discussed using some of the rain garden funds to spruce up the riparian buffer planting at Mago Point. Abby Piersall, the Waterford planner, provided me with the plant list from the new fishing platform landscaping plan, so we can match up plants and create a continuous planting.

Monitoring: I priced out the cost of a new YSI meter for the 2019 Dominion proposal to replace our present meter.

NRWPP Update: Subsequent to last month's meeting, I notified Fuss and O'Neill that we had accepted their proposal for the NRWPP update. The RFP Subcommittee finalized the contract language, and the contract is ready for execution at this evening's meeting.

Grants:

Grants currently open include:

- NFWF New England Forests and Rivers Fund Thursday, April 25, 2019
- NFWF National Coastal Resiliency Fund - Monday, May 20, 2019
- NFWF Long Island Sound Futures Fund - Monday, May 20, 2019

ECCD Projects:

- East Lyme High School Infiltration Project: The amended contract has been returned to DEEP for execution. 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. We have several homeowners in the watershed interested; however, priority will be given to towns which have not had an installation to date.
- 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 on April 24th at the Southeastern Ct Council of Governments in Norwich.

Staff hours: In March, I worked approximately 55.25 hours on Niantic River Watershed Committee business and projects. Of that, about 24.75 hours were for core NRWC activities (administration, outreach and monitoring activities) and about 30.5 hours were applied to projects, including the Behavior Change project and the Watershed Plan Update.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator