



Niantic River Watershed Committee

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Niantic River Watershed Coordinator's Report

May 2, 2019

Good evening,

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

Outreach/Education:

- EarthFest 2019: I will be attending the EarthFest event at McCook Park in East Lyme on Saturday, May 4th. I plan to promote the Watershed Plan Update, the Lawn Care Behavior Change project, the Rain Garden Initiative and shellfish outreach.
- Niantic River Behavior Change Pilot Project: A conference call is scheduled for May 6th. An additional call will be scheduled the week of May 13th to plan the CBSM workshop.
- Hole in the Wall Outdoor Stormwater Classroom: The annual stormwater classroom for watershed-wide 3rd graders is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14th.
- 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 talking about the High School rain garden and/or the Behavior Change project.

Water Quality Improvement Projects:

- Rain Garden Initiative: I visited the riparian buffer at Mago Point to take stock of what needs to be done to spruce it up. As soon as the danger of frost is past, we can plan a work day.

Monitoring: I did not conduct any monitoring activities this past month.

NRWPP Update: We received the signed contract from Fuss & O'Neill and can begin the work outlined in the RFP. We also received the revised contract from DEEP (with the new end date). I will contact Erik Mas and Josh Wilson at Fuss & O'Neill to get under way with the first few tasks (creating a stakeholder list, preparing an invitation letter, and identifying dates and locations for the two workshops). I created a tracking spreadsheet to track invoices/payments as work is completed and to allocate payments to the correct grant.

Grants:

I prepared and submitted an application for funding for 2019 to the Dominion Foundation. I proposed to focus on community shellfish outreach and education in order to lay the groundwork for future shellfish restoration efforts in the Niantic River.

Grants currently open include:

- NFWF National Coastal Resiliency Fund - Monday, May 20, 2019
- NFWF Long Island Sound Futures Fund - Monday, May 20, 2019

I am preparing a proposal to the LISFF to expand the Niantic River Lawn Care Behavior Change pilot project to a larger scope throughout the lower watershed (East Lyme and Waterford).

ECCD Projects:

- East Lyme High School Infiltration Project: I have begun preparation of the bid documentation. The project is on target for July/August 2019.
- LISFF 100 Rain Gardens/100 Rain Barrels: This project has been extended through fall of 2019. ECCD will be looking for sites for additional rain gardens and also conduct an additional rain barrel workshop. ECCD will be working with a Waterford High School student to install a rain garden at Great Neck School as part of the STR-STH Niantic River Watershed Outreach project under this funding.
- 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: The spring meeting was held on April 24th at the Southeastern Ct Council of Governments in Norwich.

Staff hours: In April, I worked approximately 31.25 hours on Niantic River Watershed Committee business and projects. Of that, about 23 hours were for core NRWC activities (administration, outreach and monitoring activities) and about 8.25 hours were applied to projects, including the Behavior Change project and the Watershed Plan Update.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator