



Niantic River Watershed Committee

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Niantic River Watershed Coordinator's Report

June 6, 2019

Good evening,

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

Outreach/Education:

- EarthFest 2019: I attended the EarthFest event at McCook Park in East Lyme on Saturday, May 4th. I promoted the Watershed Plan Update, the Lawn Care Behavior Change project, the Rain Garden Initiative and shellfish outreach. I put together a "Niantic River Trail" game for children who visited the booth, which I think was well-received.
- Niantic River Behavior Change Pilot Project: I participated in several conference calls (May 6th and May 30th) to plan a 2020 CBSM how-to workshop and a project presentation to the Niantic River Nitrogen Work Group in June.
- Hole in the Wall Outdoor Stormwater Classroom: I participated in the annual stormwater classroom for watershed-wide 3rd graders on Tuesday, May 14th.
- STR-STH Niantic River Outreach and Get Pumped Projects: I participated in the wrap-up workshop for students on May 22nd at East Lyme High School. I talked about the Behavior Change campaign and led the students through an exercise using the intercept survey.
- Niantic River Nitrogen Work Group: I attended the Work Group meeting at the Millstone Environmental Lab on Monday, June 3rd. Robert Burg, Holly Drinkuth and I presented the outcomes of the Behavior Change campaign to the group.
- NACD Northeast Region Meeting (upcoming): I will be leading a tour of stormwater practices in the Niantic River watershed as part of a NACD regional meeting in August 2019.

Monitoring: CT DEEP has asked if we would consider deploying temperature loggers in several streams in the area, including several sites outside of the Niantic watershed. They will provide loggers to supplement our three.

NRWPP Update: The NRWPP Update Steering Committee has begun working with Fuss & O'Neill on the first few project tasks, including populating the stakeholder list I compiled last month, preparing an invitation letter and putting together a stakeholder survey. Fuss & O'Neill created a Dropbox folder to store the documents so they can be shared among project participants.

Grants:

- 2019 Dominion Foundation: I prepared and submitted an application for funding to the Dominion Foundation in May. I have been informally notified that we have been awarded funding, including funding to purchase a new YSI meter.
- NFWF Long Island Sound Futures Fund: I prepared and submitted a proposal to the LISFF on May 20th to expand the Niantic River Lawn Care Behavior Change pilot project to a larger scope throughout the lower watershed (East Lyme and Waterford).

Water Quality Improvement Projects:

- Rain Garden Initiative (NRWC): The Pine Grove Association is planning to enlarge the rain garden installed last year as well as install riparian buffer plantings on the bank of the inlet to Smith Cove. We previously approved their applications for these activities. I also spoke with Petie Reed about this promoting this project among her clients.
- East Lyme High School Rain Garden (NRWC): I am working with Lisa Vaudreuil's 3rd grade class to develop an informative sign for the high school rain garden.
- East Lyme High School Infiltration Project (ECCD): I am working with Town staff to finalize the bid documentation. The project is on target for July/August 2019.
- LISFF 100 Rain Gardens/100 Rain Barrels (ECCD): This project has been extended through fall of 2019. There are several candidate sites in Waterford and East Lyme.
- 4-Town Bioretention Project (ECCD): 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 (ECCD): ECCD was awarded additional funding from the Community Foundation of Eastern CT to expand this project into northeast Connecticut, to establish a stand-alone website and buy GPS units for mapping purposes. The summer meeting is scheduled for July 24th.

Staff hours: In May, I worked approximately 73.75 hours on Niantic River Watershed Committee business and projects. Of that, about 69.75 hours were for core NRWC activities (administration, outreach and monitoring activities) and about 4 hours were applied to projects, including the Behavior Change project and the Watershed Plan Update.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator