



Niantic River Watershed Committee

www.nianticriverwatershed.org

Niantic River Watershed Coordinator's Report

July 2, 2020

Good evening,

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

Outreach/Education: The first week of June, I began posting weekly tips on our Facebook page (Niantic River Watershed Committee) for the Healthy Lawns, Healthy River CBSM project. I intend to post weekly tips through mid-October. Please watch for them and like and/or repost so we can distribute our message broadly (and get big counts to report back to our funder).

Monitoring: I located fisheries data on Latimer Brook and Cranberry Meadow Brook on the CT ECO DEEP Fish Community Data Viewer (<https://cteco.uconn.edu/projects/fish/viewer/index.html>) and shared the data with the Monitoring Committee. We had been interested in the fisheries data following a fish survey of Latimer Brook several years ago, which indicated that fish species and population numbers were uncharacteristically low. As a result of the survey, Latimer Brook has been listed by DEEP as non-supportive for aquatic habitat.

NRWPP Update: The draft plan has been completed. I received the final Plan from Fuss & O'Neill on July 1st for final review. Thank you to everyone who reviewed and submitted comments.

Healthy Lawns, Healthy River CBSM Outreach Campaign: I submitted a request for a six-month extension on the project due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As previously stated, I have started to conduct outreach through our Facebook page. Once the NRWPP Update has been concluded, I will have more time to start working on this project, preparatory to launching the interactive part in the late winter/early spring of 2021.

Grants: I still hope to investigate the potential for applying for the National Estuary Program (NEP) Coastal Watersheds Grant (CWG) Program. Letters of Intent are due on August 7th. The Town of Waterford had previously expressed interest in restoring erosion at Grimsey Park, and it was suggested that we evaluate the potential to restore the marsh behind Boat Valet that is constricted by the railroad (and full of Phragmites).

Water Quality Improvement Projects: ECCD has received the contract for the Four-town Bioretention project contract. We will be reviewing the project and developing an implementation schedule over the next month.

Staff hours: In June, I worked approximately 54 hours on Niantic River Watershed Committee business and projects. Of that, about 21 hours were for core NRWC activities (administration, outreach and monitoring activities); 5.25 hours went towards the Long Island Sound Futures Fund proposal; about 21.5 hours were applied to the Watershed Plan Update, and about 6.25 hours were applied to the new LISFF CBSM campaign.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Judy Rondeau", is placed on a light yellow rectangular background.

Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator