



Niantic River Watershed Committee

www.nianticriverwatershed.org

Niantic River Watershed Coordinator's Report

August 6, 2020

Good evening,

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

Outreach/Education: I did not conduct any outreach activities this past month.

Monitoring: I did not conduct any monitoring activities this past month. However, we do have the EPA stormwater equipment in-hand and need to discuss how to do some preliminary sampling. Also, we need to discuss the deployment of loggers in Oil Mill and Stony Brooks.

NRWPP Update: I received the final draft Plan from Fuss & O'Neill on July 1st for final review. I submitted the final edits/comments in early July. Thank you to everyone who reviewed and submitted final comments. We will need to submit language regarding our adoption of the Plan and a copy of the signed updated watershed compact to Fuss & O'Neill for incorporation into the final Plan (I plan to visit each of the CEOs in the next week or two to collect signatures). Once that is done, Fuss & O'Neill will send us a pdf and word doc of the plan, which we can submit to DEEP, post on our website, print and distribute. I also prepared an article on the upcoming completion of the NRWPP Update for inclusion in the ECCD Summer 2020 newsletter.

Healthy Lawns, Healthy River CBSM Outreach Campaign: I have been posting weekly tips on our Facebook page (Niantic River Watershed Committee) for the Healthy Lawns, Healthy River CBSM project. Please visit our Facebook page and like/share the posts so we can reach a broad distribution in the Niantic River watershed community. Also, I was notified that our request for a six-month extension to the project due to the Covid-19 pandemic has been approved. Hopefully, by late winter/early spring, we will be able to engage in in-person interactions. Otherwise we will have to brainstorm how to conduct a meaningful socially-distanced project(!). Finally, the CBSM workshop that was the final part of the LISS Pilot Project has been rescheduled to Sept. 21-23. The workshop will be held online from 10 am – 2:40 pm each day. The workshop is free but attendees must commit to attending all three sessions. More information about the workshop, CBSM, and the workshop speaker is available [here](#) on the Long Island Sound Study website. Click [here](#) to open the registration page. Please contact Robert Burg at cbsm@longislandsoundstudy.net if you have any questions.

Grants: I am not aware of any current grant opportunities. However, the CT Association of Conservation Districts and several partners, including Save the Sound, are investigating the

potential to develop funding from a combination of USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Watershed Operations funding (PL 566) and CWA §319 funding. This may be a source of funding to do some stormwater improvements and shoreline and habitat restoration along the coastline. Here's a link to a similar project that is being conducted on Cape Cod:

<https://www.capecodconservationdistrict.com/water-resource-restoration-project>

Water Quality Improvement Projects: ECCD has received the executed contract for the Four-town Bioretention project contract from DEEP. We will be reviewing the project and developing an implementation schedule over the next month. This project will result in the installation of six tree filter units, twenty rain gardens, twenty stormdrain Smart Sponges and distribution of thirty rain barrels throughout the four watershed towns.

Staff hours: In July, I worked approximately 37.5 hours on Niantic River Watershed Committee business and projects. Of that, about 6.25 hours were for core NRWC activities (administration, outreach and monitoring activities); about 27.25 hours were applied to the Watershed Plan Update, and about 4 hours were applied to the new LISFF CBSM campaign. As of this month, I have expended the additional funding from ECCD and will need to be very careful to limit any non-grant-funded activities.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Judy Rondeau", is placed over a light yellow rectangular background.

Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator