



Niantic River Watershed Committee

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Niantic River Watershed Coordinator's Report

February 2, 2017

Happy Ground Hog Day!

Following is a summary of tasks I have been working on since the January 5, 2017 Board of Directors meeting.

Outreach/Education: On January 11th, I attended a Save the Sound workshop in Bridgeport on a unified embayment study STS recently established. The program supports volunteer water quality monitoring groups who monitor their local embayments. On January 12th I participated in a webinar that followed up the *Southeastern CT Regional Resilience Solutions* workshop hosted by SCCOG, the SE CT Enterprise Region and The Nature Conservancy in November. The final TNC report should be out soon, and I will distribute it at that time. I have started to reach out to potential project partners for the rain garden project, and have prepared a flyer and application. I will be attending the upcoming Niantic River Nitrogen Work Group meeting on Feb. 6th. I will be participating in a Fertilizer Behavior Change conference call on Feb. 15th. I prepared a support letter for the East Lyme Land Trust (on behalf of Steve Harney) which submitted an application (due today) to the DEEP Open Space Land Acquisition program to purchase a parcel of land adjacent to the Darrow Pond open space parcel for preservation.

Monitoring: Meghan Lally of DEEP sent an email regarding multi-seasonal RBV collection. Apparently there has been discussion among monitoring groups about conducting RBV outside of the current September-November window. The Monitoring Group will need to discuss if we want to expand our program to sampling at other times of the year at our next quarterly meeting.

Grants: I have submitted the WBP work plan to DEEP for contract development. Over the course of January, I had discussion with several potential project partners regarding the NFWF Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant (which was due on January 31st). There seems to be good interest in proposing an oyster seeding/habitat restoration project. However, this is a very competitive grant that requires a minimum of five partner organizations and I did not have time to contact all potential partners or adequately develop the proposal. I would like to continue discussions with partners over the summer and submit an application next year. The 2017 EPOC grant announcement is due on March 15th. With the Board's approval, I would like to apply for additional funding to support the rain garden initiative. Also, regarding the rain garden project, I contacted Liz Burdick at the Town of Salem about installing a rain garden there. She was going to bring the item for discussion at a staff meeting in January, but I have not

heard back from her. The Dominion Foundation grant application is due on March 3rd. I would like to craft the proposal around providing support for the Fertilizer Behavior Change campaign. Presently Robert Burg from LISS is leading the broader campaign, with assistance from TNC, which is doing telephone surveys of targeted areas in eastern CT including the Niantic watershed. The coalition needs a local leader to spearhead the local campaign, and I think NRWC is well-situated, and fertilizer management fits well with goals stated in our Plan of Work.

ECCD Projects: I met with Victor Benni of the Town of East Lyme on January 19th to begin planning for the Latimer Brook Infiltration project, scheduled for early summer 2017. Victor is investigating various types of infiltration structures, to determine which will work best in that situation. Victor and I also talked about incorporating green infrastructure into an upcoming paving project on Grand Street.

Staff hours: In November, I worked approximately 27.5 hours on Niantic River Watershed Committee business and projects, including 5 hours on the Rain Garden initiative.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judy Rondeau". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator