



Niantic River Watershed Committee

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Niantic River Watershed Coordinator's Report

April 5, 2018

Good evening,

Following is a summary of my activities since the March 1, 2017 Board of Directors meeting

Outreach/Education:

- I attended a Niantic River Nitrogen Work Group Technical Advisory Committee meeting on Mar. 16th to review the status of the Niantic River Nitrogen modeling project.
- I have participated in weekly planning calls for the Behavior Change campaign pilot project. We will be conducting the pilot to the pilot this Saturday in Waterford to test our message and outreach materials. Former Board member Fran Valente will be our neighborhood contact. We are planning to launch the full pilot project (which will target 200-400 households) in early to mid-May, pending selection of suitable neighborhoods, neighborhood partners and volunteers.

Monitoring:

- I received a reminder from DEP to retrieve the temperature loggers we placed last summer in Latimer Brook. I have asked DEEP staff if it would be beneficial to them for us to collect an additional year's worth of data for fish habitat assessments and am awaiting a reply.
- I also contacted Save The River-Save the Hills regarding a possible monitoring partnership utilizing the US EPA Equipment Loan program (described below). While STR-STH was interested, we would need to identify additional funding to make the project feasible for both organizations.

Grants:

- DEEP has announced the FY 18 CWA NPS grant program round. Applications are due May 1st.
- I investigated the 2018 US EPA Equipment Loan program. The program provides monitoring equipment for organizations to conduct sampling of stormwater outfalls. As described above, we would need to pair this program with additional funding sources to make the development of a new monitoring program feasible.

ECCD Projects:

- East Lyme High School infiltration project: This project is on-target for early summer installation. Victor Benni and I met to discuss potential infiltration practices. I would like to install the Dominion-funded rain garden in May. The Millstone Environmental Lab has indicated interest in assisting with the installation (thanks!).
- Grand Street Water Quality Improvement project: Town Engineer Victor Benni and I are reviewing the catchment area for sites for five more tree wells. A half-day workshop in partnership with CT NEMO and the Town of East Lyme is scheduled for April 27th. The workshop will target CT municipal highway staff and address the incorporation of LID practices into the MS4 permit requirements.

- Eastern Connecticut Rain Gardens and Rain Barrels: This project to install 100 rain gardens and rain barrels is underway. ECCD would like to install 3 rain gardens in each District town. We would also like to hold one of the five rain barrel workshops in the Niantic watershed, possibly in Waterford, in partnership with Waterford Boy Scouts. I am presently looking for sites in Waterford, East Lyme and Montville for rain gardens (Salem, unfortunately, is not in our District).

Staff hours: In March, I worked approximately 30 hours on Niantic River Watershed Committee business and projects. Of that, about 21.5 hours were for administrative activities, outreach and monitoring activities, and 8.5 hours were applied to projects.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator