



Niantic River Watershed Committee

www.nianticriverwatershed.org

Niantic River Watershed Coordinator's Report

April 6, 2017

Good evening,

Following is a summary of tasks I have been working on since the March 2, 2017 Board of Directors meeting.

Outreach/Education: I put the finishing touches on the Rain Garden Initiative and made the rounds to a number of gardens centers today to introduce the project and potentially garner partner support. I've had several discussions with Suzanne Thompson about the project, and we've brainstormed ways to collaborate to reach a wider audience in the watershed, such as connecting with master gardeners and several active community associations, including neighborhood associations and garden clubs. Work on the Behavior Change Campaign has been ramping up. The telephone survey was completed in March. TNC is currently reviewing the results. I participated in a conference call with the principal project partners on March 9th, and coordinated a local partners meeting in Niantic on Mar. 30th. I've been invited to participate in a series of social marketing workshops that will be tied to specific project activities over the next few months. I attended a conference with my daughter in New Jersey in March. I picked up information about a New York City-based project called the Billion Oyster Project. The goal of the project is to restore (you guessed it) one billion oysters to the Hudson River estuary. It has multiple partners, but it is being run through the NYC school system, similar, I think, to the Trout in the Classroom program.

Monitoring: There has been no activity on my part on the monitoring front over the past month.

Grants: We are waiting on notification whether several grant applications I submitted in March have been approved, including proposals to Dominion Foundation to fund the Niantic River Lawn Fertilizer Behavior Change Campaign and EPOC to supplement existing Rain Garden Initiative funding. The NFWF Long Island Sound Future Fund grant RFP should be released in April. I may evaluate it for a possible oyster restoration proposal in conjunction with the shellfish commissions and other partners.

ECCD Projects: The Latimer Brook stormwater infiltration project at East Lyme High School is still on target for summer 2017. DEEP is in the process of preparing the contract for the Grand Street water quality improvement project, which is slated for September 2017.

Staff hours: In March, I worked approximately 23 hours on Niantic River Watershed Committee business and projects. Of that, 6 hours was for administrative activities, and 17 hours was applied to projects.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judy Rondeau". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. It is positioned above a light yellow rectangular background.

Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator