



Niantic River Watershed Committee

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***Niantic River Watershed
Coordinator's Report
for
February and March 2020***

April 2, 2020

Good evening,

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

Outreach/Education: On Feb. 7th, I attended a site meeting with Waterford planning staff and Coast Guard Academy cadets. We reviewed sensitive coastal areas along the Niantic River for their coastal resiliency projects. I prepared an outreach flyer to promote the East Lyme High School infiltration project, which we can hand out at outreach events. I also posted a few news articles to the NRWC website. I did not conduct any education/outreach activities in March.

Monitoring: I expect the 2019 DEEP RBV results will be announced in the near future; they are typically posted late winter. I have been investigating the potential to develop a stormdrain sampling program to sample outfalls directly to the Niantic River, and have requested water quality data from watershed partners to determine if this would be a worthwhile activity.

NRWPP Update: Progress continues on the watershed plan update. Draft sections 1 & 2 are complete; sections 3-7 are on target for completion by the end of April. The Steering Committee had progress conference calls on Feb. 18th and Mar. 24th. The next call will be held the week of Apr 20th. On Feb. 28th we held the open space planning workshop. Eleven stakeholders attended. We made a good start on developing a collaborative approach to open space planning in the watershed. I will continue to follow up, including reviewing a recently developed mapping tool, and potentially scheduling a follow-up meeting.

Healthy Lawns, Healthy River CBSM Outreach Campaign: I am still in the process of preparing the contract with the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (the funder). Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus, I do not see how we can safely conduct this project this year. I have asked NFWF staff if we can postpone it to next spring but have not received an answer.

Grants: EPA Region 1 released an announcement for the Stormwater Toolbox Equipment Loan Program, which is due 4/3/20. If the Board is in support of developing a stormdrain outfall monitoring program, I plan to apply for this equipment loan. CT DEEP released the RFP for the FY20 CWA §319 grant program; proposals were due on February 27, 2020. I prepared a proposal for stormwater management at East Lyme High School, based on recommendations provided by Fuss & O'Neill subsequent to their visual field assessment. The NFWF Long Island

Sound Futures Fund RFP has been released; proposals are due June 2nd. Erik Mas of Fuss & O'Neill has asked if NRWC collaborate with F&O to prepare a proposal to implement a recommendation from the plan update.

Water Quality Improvement Projects: There are no active water quality improvement projects at present. The contract for the ECCD Four-town Bioretention project is close to being finalized. ECCD anticipates beginning this project this summer.

Staff hours: In February, I worked approximately 68.5 hours on Niantic River Watershed Committee business and projects. Of that, about 17 hours were for core NRWC activities (administration, outreach and monitoring activities), about 42 hours were applied to the Watershed Plan Update (including about 23.5 hrs for the open space workshop), and about 9.5 hours were applied to the new LISFF CBSM campaign.

In March, I worked approximately 57 hours on Niantic River Watershed Committee business and projects. Of that, about 13 hours were for core NRWC activities (administration, outreach and monitoring activities), about 39.5 hours were applied to the Watershed Plan Update (including about 14 hrs for the open space workshop), and about 4.5 hours were applied to the new LISFF CBSM campaign.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judy Rondeau". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light yellow rectangular background.

Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator