



Niantic River Watershed Committee

www.nianticriverwatershed.org

Niantic River Watershed Coordinator's Report

June 4, 2020

Good evening,

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

Outreach/Education: I have created an outline for water quality messages related to the Healthy Lawns, Healthy River project and will be posting them weekly on our Facebook page over the next three or so months. Please watch for them and like and/or repost so we can distribute our message broadly.

Monitoring: We were awarded the EPA Stormwater Toolbox equipment; it arrived last week. The Monitoring Committee met to discuss this, among other topics. I'd like to start some preliminary sampling as soon as we can safely set up a schedule.

NRWPP Update: The draft plan has been completed. I posted it on our website and notified partners that it was available for review. Thank you to everyone who sent me comments, which I will submit to Fuss & O'Neill tomorrow. Next steps include updating the watershed compact and planning the watershed summit.

Healthy Lawns, Healthy River CBSM Outreach Campaign: I submitted the signed contract and received notification that the grant has been activated. As previously stated, I will begin a messaging campaign on Facebook this summer. I have received guidance on how to request an extension, which I will do in the next week.

Grants: I submitted a Long Island Sound Futures Fund proposal on June 2nd to fully develop and support the Niantic River outfall sampling program. Award announcements will be made in September or October. The National Estuary Program (NEP) Coastal Watersheds Grant (CWG) Program has released an RFP; Letters of Intent are due on August 7th. Save the River has indicated potential interest in developing a collaborative project. I am thinking about developing a proposal to address shoreline erosion and marsh restoration.

Water Quality Improvement Projects: In an unexpected development, the Four-town Bioretention project contract has gotten hung up at the Attorney General's office. ECCD hopes to receive the final executed contract soon so we can begin this project this summer.

Staff hours: In May, I worked approximately 58.25 hours on Niantic River Watershed Committee business and projects. Of that, about 32 hours were for core NRWC activities (administration, outreach and monitoring activities) including 19.5 hours towards the Long Island Sound Futures Fund proposal, about 25.25 hours were applied to the Watershed Plan Update, and about 1 hour was applied to the new LISFF CBSM campaign.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Rondeau". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator