



# *Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.*

*www.nianticriverwatershedcommittee.org*

## ***Niantic River Watershed Coordinator's Report***

***October 7, 2021***

Good evening,

This is a very bittersweet meeting for me. It has been an honor to serve as your coordinator for the last 11 ½ years(!). The level of expertise in this group is remarkable and I have learned an amazing amount from you all. I am very proud of everything we have accomplished and wish NRW the very best going forward. I hope to be able to stay in touch so I can see the incredible work you conduct in the future.

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

**Outreach/Education:** I posted and cross-posted a few relevant posts on our Facebook page, including publicity for the Healthy Lawns, Healthy River project. I participated in the fall Niantic River Nitrogen Work Group meeting on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Monitoring:** I had a brief discussion with Deb Dunn regarding the potential to partner with Save the River-Save the Hills to track down bacteria documented in Stony Brook through the UWS water quality sampling program.

**NRWPP Update Watershed Summit:** This is on hold pending the end of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Healthy Lawns, Healthy River CBSM Outreach Campaign:** Ralph Bates and I wrapped up the canvassing in East Lyme on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>. I would say the outreach was a definite success. A huge thanks goes out to all our volunteers who carried the message back to their neighborhoods and spread it around. There are multiple yard signs up along Niantic River Road and Rt 1 near Banning Cove. The next and final phase will be to revisit select areas in the fall to follow-up on how successful folks were on adopting the recommended behaviors and if they shared the information with their neighbors. The project end date is 12/31/21. We will need to discuss how to wrap it up. I will contact NFWF this or next week to let them know I am no longer the project manager and get some guidance on how to proceed. I participated in a web meeting on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> with researchers from Clark University, who conducted an investigation into the effectiveness of fertilizer reduction campaigns, and from that meeting I generated interest from staff at NY DEC. I will be having a conference call with them next Friday to discuss our CBSM project and will let you know any outcomes.

**Grants:** I submitted the 2021 Dominion Foundation Environmental Stewardship grant proposal on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Our focus will be the development of the watershed report card.

**Water Quality Improvement Projects:** 4-Town Bioretention project – In September, I met with staff from East Lyme and Waterford to identify for locations for some of the project BMPs. I

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created flyers for the rain garden and rain barrel phases of the project. The rain barrel distribution day is Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> at the FOHNP Pitch Pine Nursery. If anyone wants to come and help, I will be meeting the truck at 1 pm, then hanging out until the distribution begins at 3 pm.

**Staff hours:** In September, I worked approximately 21.75 hours on Niantic River Watershed Committee business and projects. Of that, about 12.25 hours were for core NRWC activities (administration, outreach, and monitoring activities), 0.0 hours to the Watershed Plan Update Summit (CFECT grant), and about 9.5 hours were applied to the LISFF CBSM campaign.

With greatest respect,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Judy Rondeau", is written over a light yellow rectangular background.

Judy Rondeau  
Watershed Coordinator