



Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

www.nianticriverwatershedcommittee.org

Niantic River Watershed Coordinator's Report

August 5, 2021

Good evening,

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

Outreach/Education: I posted and cross-posted a few relevant posts on our Facebook page.

Monitoring: The Monitoring Committee held a special meeting on July 13th to discuss the outfall sampling project. I delivered the EPA kit to Don Landers on July 24th. We still need to sort out which lab we plan to use to process bacteria data (ECCD has an account with Microbac Lab in Killingly, which is about 45 minutes away). Once we settle on a lab, I will pick up bacteria sampling bottles. I reviewed Bureau of Aquaculture data to see if there were any bacteria hotspots in the river. In general, fecal bacteria levels were not very high, but were slightly higher in the areas near Smith Cove. I requested water quality data from the Town of Waterford's consultant; they will compile it and send it to me in the next week or so. I also received data from East Lyme. I will review those data to identify any outfall hotspots that we may want to focus on for our sampling efforts.

NRWPP Update Watershed Summit: I sent an email to the Summit Committee with some thoughts on the Summit, including potential dates, topics/speakers, and locations. We will provide updates as we continue to develop the event.

Healthy Lawns, Healthy River CBSM Outreach Campaign: The CBSM project team conducted canvassing in East Lyme on Saturday, July 24th. We had a very successful outing and were able to get a bit more than halfway to our "100 conversations" goal. We have three more neighborhoods to visit, which I hope we can complete over the next few weeks. The 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. I anticipate closing this project out in late fall (the end date is 12/31/21).

Grants: I have not seen any new grant opportunities this past month.

Water Quality Improvement Projects: 4-Town Bioretention project – As previously reported, a Coastal Master Gardener will be working with us on the rain garden and/or rain barrel components this summer. We have prepared a press release and will be recruiting homeowners/property owners for rain garden installations. We will also need to connect with the new East Lyme Town Engineer and bring him/her up to speed on the project.

Staff hours: In July, I worked approximately 36.75 hours on Niantic River Watershed Committee business and projects. Of that, about 16.5 hours were for core NRW activities (administration, outreach and monitoring activities, including 13.5 hours applied to the 2020 Dominion funding specifically for outfall sampling), 1.5 hours to the Watershed Plan Update Summit (CFECT grant), and about 18.75 hours were applied to the LISFF CBSM campaign.

Niantic River Watershed...

...a Treasure Worth Protecting

Respectfully submitted,

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

Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator