



# *Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.*

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## Minutes

**Niantic River Watershed Committee  
Monitoring Subcommittee Meeting  
January 7, 2016, 5 - 6 pm  
East Lyme Town Hall, Conference Room 1  
108 Pennsylvania Ave, Niantic, CT**

FILED IN EAST LYME  
CONNECTICUT  
Jan 29 2016 AT 3:30 AM/PM  
Kaitlyn Salvo, AR  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Attendees: Tom Bowen, Don Danila, Maureen Fitzgerald, John Jasper, Don Landers, Aaron Pauley, Chris Tomichek, Eric Thomas, Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator.

1. Welcome - Watershed Coordinator Judy Rondeau opened the meeting at 5:02 pm.
2. Review of May 7, 2015 Meeting Minutes – Subcommittee members reviewed the May 7, 2015 meeting minutes. A misspelling of Dr. Christine Kirchhoff's name was corrected. The minutes, as corrected, were approved by consensus.
3. Water Quality Monitoring:
  - a. Latimer Brook Monitoring Program update - Don Danila reviewed the water quality monitoring program, including changes to monitoring stations. As of this spring we will have four years of data. There was discussion whether we should shift our focus away from monthly monitoring and focus more on episodic data collection. Since we have a gap in our data set for wet weather sampling, members thought this would be valuable data to collect. There was discussion about breaking watersheds down into sub-watersheds and comparing water quality data to development density in order to potentially identify pollutant sources. The group agreed to deliberate on the monitoring program further at the next meeting.
  - b. River Bioassessment for Volunteers (RBV) – We collected RBV samples from three sites along Latimer Brook, and the East Lyme Conservation of Natural Resources Commission collected samples from Cranberry Meadow Brook. We did not collect samples from Oil Mill Brook or Stony Brook this year because Waterford retained a contractor to conduct stream bio-assessments.
  - c. UConn student study update - John Jasper reviewed the preliminary result of the UConn report. The data continues to exhibit consistent seasonal variations, with two strong seasonal spikes. At this point, we don't know what is driving those spikes. Isotopic analysis of water samples collected by Don and sent to Craig Tobias at UConn/Avery Point may indicate those sources. John will check to see if the student will be available to present the results at the next subcommittee meeting.

- d. Town of Waterford Stream Bio-assessment report – Maureen reported that the bio-assessment has been completed. Low stream flows this past summer may have impacted the results.
  - e. Data assessment/evaluation/report – Judy reviewed the current water quality report, and provided a copy of the Salmon River report. Members liked the short two-page summary.
  - f. Draft QAPP – The QAPP is approximately half written. Judy would appreciate any assistance with its completion.
4. Partner Reports: None.
5. Other Business: NRW is pursuing funding to purchase a water level logger to install at the existing USGS stream gauge station on Latimer Brook. Judy had applied for funding through SWEP-CT and has not been notified yet about the awarding of funding. John Jasper commented that the point of data collection is to evaluate nitrogen loading to the Niantic River and that the stream gauge is necessary to determine loading. Maureen Fitzgerald commented on the importance of identifying pollutant sources and educating watershed residents. Tom Bowen stated that New London Water monitors septic systems in the drinking water watershed for break-outs and wondered if septic system monitoring was done elsewhere (it is not). Don Danila and Don Landers commented that when we have the results of the isotopic analysis, we can use that information to target outreach and implementation efforts. Judy stated that she would like to undertake a manure management initiative this coming year, and plans to approach the East Lyme Conservation Commission to gage support. Maureen stated that Waterford would be interested in participating as well.
6. Next meeting: May 5, 2016, location to be determined.
7. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 5:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy Rondeau  
Watershed Coordinator