



Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

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FILED

Minutes
NRWC Board of Directors
April 2, 2020, 6 pm
Via Zoom Video Conferencing

APR 30 2020 AT 2:07 AM/PM
Kenneth Hillman
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Attendees: Ralph Bates, Town of East Lyme; Donald Danila, Town of East Lyme; Rick Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Donald Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management and Shellfish Commission; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Chris Tomichek, Town of Waterford; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator.

Excused: Melissa Bezanson, Town of Salem; David Bliven, Town of Montville; Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; John Jasper, Town of East Lyme; Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford; David Turner, Town of Montville.

Absent: None

1. Call to Order: Chair C. Tomichek called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
2. Seating of Alternates: A motion was made by D. Danila to seat R. Kanter for P. Harris and R. Bates for M. Bezanson, seconded by D. Landers. All in favor, the motion passes.
3. Review and Approval of February 6, 2020 and March 5, 2020 meeting minutes: It was noted that there was no March 5, 2020 meeting so only the February 6, 2020 meeting minutes will be reviewed and approved. D. Danila corrected the spelling of Bride Brook in agenda item 10. D. Landers made a motion to approve the February 6, 2020 minutes as corrected, seconded by R. Bates. All in favor, the motion passes.
4. Treasurer's Report: D. Danila reviewed the Treasurer's Report. D. Landers made a motion to accept the report as presented, seconded by R. Kanter. All in favor, the motion passes.
5. Coordinator's Report: On Feb. 7th, Judy attended a site meeting with Waterford planning staff and Coast Guard Academy cadets to review sensitive coastal areas along the Niantic River for their coastal resiliency projects. Progress continues on the watershed plan update. 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 NRWC held the open space planning workshop. A good start was made on developing a collaborative approach to open space planning in the watershed. Judy is still in the process of preparing the contract with the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (the funder) for the lawn fertilizer reduction CBSM campaign. EPA Region 1 released an announcement for the Stormwater Toolbox Equipment Loan Program, which is due 4/3/20. Judy would like to apply for this equipment loan to develop a stormwater outfall sampling program for outfalls directly to the Niantic River. D. Landers made a motion to apply for the EPA Stormwater Toolbox, seconded by D. Danila. All in favor, motion passes. CT DEEP released the RFP for the FY20 CWA §319 grant program; proposals were due on February 27, 2020. Judy 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. Judy would like to prepare a proposal for this grant to develop the Niantic River stormwater outfall sampling program.

6. DEEP Liaison Report: E. Thomas provided an update of DEEP activities for the Committee. Eric reported that DEEP Water Quality Monitoring Program is using a contract lab this year for macroinvertebrate id. The ECCD Niantic 4-Town Bio-Infiltration, Filtration and Water Harvesting grant contract preparation is nearly complete. FY20 CWA §319 proposals are being reviewed by DEEP and noted that proposals for non-funded projects could be prepared for the LISFF grant. The Open Space and watersheds Land Acquisition program grant deadline has been extended to 7/1/20.
7. Old Business:
 - a. Town Matters: D. Danila reported that the Waterford solar development CT Siting Council hearings are scheduled for April and reminded NRWCC that they can submit comments any time.
 - b. Director and Officers Insurance Discussion: Waterford and Salem representatives need to check with their elected officials to see if they are covered under their respective town's policy.
 - c. Fertilizer Advertisement in The Day: The Board supports publication of this advertisement. This item will be added to the May agenda for action.
8. Subcommittee Updates
 - a. Monitoring Group: D. Danila collected the winter quarter water quality sample in March. He distributed the data and report for review. He reported that the new YSI worked nicely.
 - b. Education/Outreach Group: Activities were reviewed in the Coordinator's Report.
 - c. NRWPP Update Steering Committee: In addition to activities that were reviewed in the Coordinator's Report. J. Rondeau noted that subsequent to the March progress conference call, the completion dates for the draft plan and review period were shifted back to allow Fuss & O'Neill adequate time to complete the draft plan update. The Board discussed the watershed summit, since it is unknown if an in-person event will be possible, and updating the watershed compact to reflect the plan update.
 - d. Audit Committee: R. Bates reported that the committee reviewed the audit material in March and found all in order. The audit report will be distributed to the Board for review and approval at the May meeting.
9. New Business:
 - a. EPA Stormwater Toolbox Equipment Loan Program: Discussed in Coordinator's Report.
 - b. ECCD Project Support Reimbursement: D. Danila made a motion to approve reimbursement to ECCD for project support services for the 1st quarter of 2020 (January-March), seconded by D. Landers. All in favor, the motion passes.
 - c. Fuss & O'Neill Progress Invoice: D. Landers made a motion to approve payment to Fuss & O'Neill for the invoice dated 3/16/20 when payment from DEEP is received, seconded by R. Bates. All in favor, the motion passes.
10. Public Comments: None.
11. Next Meeting: May 7, 2020, 6 PM, Location TBD.
12. Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn at 7:07 PM by D. Landers, seconded by R. Bates. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Rondeau". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Judy Rondeau
Watershed Coordinator