



# Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

[www.nianticriverwatershed.org](http://www.nianticriverwatershed.org)

FILED

NOV 2 2021 AT 8:00 AM PM  
(Dan Mullins)  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

**Minutes**  
**NRWC Board of Directors**  
**October 7, 2021, 6 pm**  
**Via Zoom Online Conferencing**

Attendees: Judy Rondeau, NRWC Coordinator; Dan Mullins, Eastern CT Conservation District; Chris Tomichek, Town of Waterford; Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford; Karen Bishop, Town of Waterford; Don Danila, Town of East Lyme; Susan Gonzalez, Town of East Lyme; David Turner, Town of Montville; Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management and Shellfish Commission; Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Eric Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Deb Moshier-Dunn, STR-STH; Jamie Vaudrey, UCONN Avery Point

Excused: Melissa Bezanson, Town of Salem; Ralph Bates, Town of East Lyme

1. **Call to Order:** C. Tomichek called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
2. **Seating of Alternates:** D. Landers motioned to sit K. Bishop for vacant seat in Salem and R. Kanter for vacant seat in Montville, seconded by P. Harris. All in favor, motion passed.
3. **Review and Approval of September 2, 2021 meeting minutes:** D. Landers motioned to approve the minutes as amended, with item 9, second bullet, corrected to read "D. Danila requested permission from committee officers to buy reagents for nitrate sample processing", seconded by D. Danila. All in favor, motion passed.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** D. Danila presented Treasurer's report. He noted that future annual business filings to the State of CT Secretary of State office will be paid in conjunction with IRS filing in January or February. D. Landers motioned to approve Treasurer's report, seconded by R. Kanter. All in favor, motion passed.
5. **Coordinator's Report:** J. Rondeau reviewed the Coordinator's report. There was additional discussion on what needs to be done to wrap up the Healthy Lawns, Healthy River CBSM outreach campaign prior to the 12/31/21 project end date. S. Gonzalez reported that there will be a meeting the week of Oct. 11 to review environmental grant applications submitted to the Dominion Foundation. Regarding the 4-Town Bioretention Project, D. Mullins reported that there have been many inquiries about the rain gardens and some assessments have already been completed.
6. **DEEP Liaison Report:** E. Thomas – Highlighted the importance of sharing the watershed plan update with the community and town officials, especially since town budgets will be developed soon for the next year. Statewide RBV and temperature monitoring data updated to include 2020 is now available on DEEP website (<https://ctdeep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=9265f117579546678b70ff9dbd6d0854>). He also noted that there is a growing appreciation within the DEEP for cold and cool water temperature monitoring, which can be used to inform decision-making when updating resource inventory, watershed plans, etc.



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## 7. Old Business:

### a. Town Matters:

- D. Landers recommended that after the Coordinator's position is filled and the November municipal elections are over, setting up a meeting with town officials in the watershed (some of which may be newly elected) to review watershed plan update.
- D. Danila reported on an East Lyme Zoning Commission public hearing regarding an application for construction of a highway rest stop at a property adjacent to I-95 near exit 75.
- C. Tomichek read an email from R. Bates stating that the Town of East Lyme designated \$12,500 toward the STR-STH pump out boat.
- P. Harris reported that WELSCO will be purchasing 20,000 oysters to be placed in the Niantic River. Permit limits will also be modified so that newly placed oysters won't be removed right away.

## 8. Subcommittee Updates:

### a. Monitoring Group:

- D. Danila summarized discussions from the Monitoring Group Subcommittee meeting regarding the wet weather sampling program, RBV sampling, and the upcoming (Fall 2022) UCONN-Cornell Niantic River Eelgrass Restoration Project.
- J. Rondeau led a discussion on potential partnership with STR-STH in 2022 for bacterial sampling in Stony Brook to track down high fecal bacterial levels. It was decided that if the NRWC would like to pursue this, the first step would be to determine funding sources for the project before designing a sampling plan.

b. Education/Outreach Group: No additional updates other than those provided in Coordinator's Report.

c. NRWPP Update Summit Committee: No update.

## 9. New Business:

- Invoice from ECCD for Coordinator support from July-September 2021 for \$2500. D. Danila motioned to approve payment of ECCD invoice, seconded by D. Landers. All in favor, motion passed.
- D. Moshier-Dunn discussed the need for new STR-STH pump out boat.
- D. Mullins will act as Interim Coordinator until Coordinator position is filled.

## 10. Public Comments:

D. Moshier-Dunn discussed the following:

- Agreed that meeting all town selectmen in the watershed to remind them of Plan update is a good idea.
- Waterford Land Trust has a newly created land acquisition committee and Deb inquired about a map identifying parcels of land important to protecting water resources.
- STR-STH commented at the EL Zoning Commission meeting on the proposed I-95 rest stop and is planning to have an engineer review the development plans and provide feedback on stormwater reduction. D. Danila suggested mentioning nitrogen-reducing septic systems to the developer as well.
- Possibility of having bacterial analysis for NRWC Niantic River municipal outfall stormwater samples conducted at UCONN Avery Point.



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11. **Next meeting:** November 4, 2021, 6 PM, venue TBD
12. **Adjournment:** D. Landers motioned to adjourn at 7:17 PM, seconded by D. Danila. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Gonzalez".

Susan Gonzalez  
Town of East Lyme Representative