



Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

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Cassidy Williams
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Minutes

Niantic River Watershed Committee

Monitoring Group Meeting

October 6, 2022, 5:30 pm

Via Zoom Online Conferencing

Attendees: Don Danila, Chris Tomichuk, Don Landers, Jamie Vaudrey (Watershed Coordinator).

1. Welcome – Don Danila opened the meeting at 5:31 PM.
2. The April 2022 minutes were not reviewed nor were the December 2021 Special Meeting Minutes. Their approval will need to occur during the next Monitoring Group meeting, which should be held in April 2023.
3. Water Quality Monitoring
 - a. Discussion of Stream Water Quality Monitoring – Don Danila noted that he is continuing to work on the 10-year WQ report, which is now up to about 50 pages in length. He will perform some data analyses in conjunction with Millstone Environmental Laboratory personnel later this month.
 - b. Don Danila reported that CT DEEP Fisheries staff electrofished Oil Mill and Stony Brooks on September 9. Unfortunately, Don D. could not join the team, but Deb Moshier-Dunn of STR-STH did and posted photos of this sampling on the organization's Facebook page. Both brook and brown trout and many eels were captured.
 - c. On September 20, Don D., Susan Gonzalez, and Deb retrieved water temperature information from the Tidbits in place in streams near the Waterford solar energy development. One Tidbit (upstream-most in Stony Brook) had broken off its tether but was located less than a foot away. Most Tidbits were redeployed in place for further data collection. They decided not to replace the Tidbit in the Stony Brook tributary stream that runs parallel to and nearby Parkway North and which drains the southern portion of the solar field. This device was originally lost during Tropical Storm Ida. This stream is ephemeral and other than the pool where the Tidbit had once been placed, all water flow for some months has occurred within bottom sediments until just before this stream reached Stony Brook. Anyway, the Tidbit near the Stony Brook Parkway North culvert should reflect any temperature changes from the solar field stormwater discharge, should they occur.
 - d. Don D. is still in discussion with his partners from the East Lyme Commission for the Conservation of Natural Resources on whether to sample RBV this year. Stream flows are currently good for this sampling, but last summer's drought may have severely impacted stream



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insect populations. In any event, only two of the four stations usually visited will be sampled: Latimer Brook behind IGA Plaza and Fourmile River at Spring Rock Road.

- e. The Noble Gas station project near I-95 Exit 75 is moving along quickly with site grading finished, presumably stormwater and septic systems in place, and the building going up rapidly. We do not know if the owner has put into place the improved stormwater or septic systems that STR-STH asked for.
- f. Discussion of Outfall Water Sampling – Jamie reported having discussed outfall water sampling with Peter Linderoth of Save The Sound. A question remains as to whether we should perform wet (i.e., immediately after precipitation) or dry monitoring. There is a big difference in bacteria found, which is usually greatest after the first flush from precipitation. This brings up logistical issues with the need to track the start of rainfall, estimate stormwater flow rates, and make collections. Jamie said she would look again at Judy Rondeau’s write-up of this proposed study as well as town MS-4 reports. Discussion ensued about wet versus dry sampling. Dry sampling might work better for our group for several reasons, including logistics. Also, one might find evidence for illegal discharges if there is much flow with bacteria present in dry weather, However, some stormwater systems are permitted to have flow from groundwater. Don Landers suggested that Jamie speak with appropriate town staff to see how we might focus this study. Jamie hopes to do this in the coming weeks. Once a plan is in place, we will need to find volunteers from the Committee and perhaps elsewhere to perform the sampling. Another problem is that some discharges are located on private property, so we would need to get permission for access. Don Landers said he would also speak with Peter Giliberto of East Lyme town staff about our possible stormwater sampling for bacteria.

4. Other Business – None

5. Next regular meeting – April 6, 2023, 5 PM (unless decided otherwise), venue TBD

6. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Danila
Chair, Monitoring Sub-committee