



Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

<https://www.nianticriverwatershed.org/>

Minutes

NRWC Board of Directors Meeting

August 7, 2025, 6 PM

Attendees: Susan Gonzalez, Town of East Lyme; Nate Hermann, Town of Montville; Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Chris Tomichek, Town of Waterford; Amy Cabaniss; Jamie Vaudrey, NRWC Coordinator; Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management/Shellfish Commission; Dave Turner, Town of Montville

Excused: Jim Paganetti, Town of Waterford; Don Danila, Town of East Lyme

1. **Call to Order:** S. Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.
2. **Seating of Alternates:** Motion by C. Tomichek to seat A. Cabaniss for the Town of Salem, seconded by D. Landers. Motion passes.
3. **No welcomes and introductions**
4. **Review and Approval of July 10 minutes:** Date in section 4, review and approval of minutes should be revised to June 5. C. Tomichek moves to approve as amended, P. Harris seconds. Motion passes.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** D. Danila had provided the treasurer's report ahead of time and there were no questions or objections from the committee. C. Tomichek moves to approve the report as written, D. Landers seconds. Motion passes.
6. **Coordinator's Report:** J. Vaudrey provided a coordinator's report on the following topics.
 - a. Celebrate East Lyme – Went very well, was much better attended than in previous years. Joe Courtney was among one of many visitors that came by to talk with Jamie.
 - b. Enviroscape – was loaned out to Christy, has been returned successfully. Included a simple letter as the full agreement was not fully approved and that went well as a truncated version of what we had. Would get names and signatures moving forward but found the letter to be sufficient. Will also add the inventory and make checking their presence the borrower's responsibility both at the start and end of the loan.
 - c. Bacteria Sampling – doing both bacteria tests, Entero and IDEXX. eDNA also at 8 stations with 8 more coming later. Ordered the water from Hardy and will receive hopefully on Monday to do sampling on Tuesday. Brooks are around base flow right now which has prevented other samples from being taken recently. If water is too low to sample, then will come back after rain. However, base flow should be sufficient for these tests.
 - d. Report card – Nothing to report as new activity. Deb had a listening session with Save the River, Save the Hills and now we will hold one in September as the final piece for the report card.
 - e. Hole in the Wall – no additional work, but still looking at 3 dates in November that will work for the towns. Will let CLEAR plan it after the date is set closer to November.



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7. **Town Matters:** D. Landers reports that the bay (except for the mooring area around the Yacht club) is almost all conditionally open except for when a huge amount of rain is taken which is a success story for shellfishing in the area. Looking to open around Giant's Neck, but need homeowners there willing to do some water sampling as there is not a public access point. Cecil the Seagull has been picked up on the Today show and coverage is intense. 36 Butlertown Road got \$500,000 from the state for Avalonia land trust which is a great piece of property to conserve including a heron rookery.
8. **Old Business:** None.
9. **Subcommittee Updates:**
 - a. Monitoring Group: Nothing to report aside from bacterial sampling discussed earlier.
 - b. Education/Outreach Group: The hats were successfully purchased and printed for all committee members, they are very popular.
10. **Eastern CT Watershed Network Updates:** Kickoff meeting on July 16th, next meeting will be August 20th. Have a set of themes out on a poll to decide upon for the 5 small events. One agenda item at the next meeting will be any report outs from the various watershed committees represented on the network. N. Hermann has been selected to represent the NRWC on the network pending approval by the committee. C. Tomichuk moves to approve N. Hermann to serve on the ECTWN and D. Landers seconds. Motion carries.
11. **New Business:** Catchafire is program which we gain access to as recipients of a grant from the Dominion Foundation. Jamie led the committee through the 3-minute needs survey they begin the program with to identify areas where the NRWC may be best aided by Catchafire. Notable areas of assistance are marketing, grant management, and operation.
12. **Public Comments:** None.
13. **Next meeting:** September 4, 2025, 6 PM.
14. **Adjourn:** C. Tomichuk moves to adjourn, D. Landers seconds. Meeting adjourned at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Nathan Hermann
Town of Montville
Secretary



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Addendum to the NRWC Agenda

2025 Meeting Dates

All meetings are held in-person with an option to call in remotely by phone or Webex.

In-person meetings are held in Conference Room 1 of the East Lyme Town Hall, 108 Pennsylvania Avenue, Niantic CT.

6 PM Meetings	Notes	Room in East Lyme Town Hall	Login To Use for Remote Attendance
1/9/25	Not on 1st Th, due to holiday	Conference Room 1	A
2/6/25		Conference Room 1	A
3/6/25	+ Monitoring Mtg to follow	Conference Room 1	A
4/3/25		Conference Room 1	A
5/1/25		Conference Room 1	A
6/5/25		Conference Room 1	A
7/10/25	Not on 1st Th, due to holiday	Conference Room 1	B
8/7/25		Downstairs	A
9/4/25		Conference Room 1	A
10/2/25	+ Monitoring Mtg to follow	Conference Room 1	A
11/6/25		Conference Room 1	A
12/4/25		Conference Room 1	A

(A) Login To Use for Remote Attendance

<https://uconn-cmr.webex.com/uconn-cmr/j.php?MTID=m58045b3a30cf549f7e063602ee982ca4>

Meeting number: 2630 504 4006

Meeting Password: NRWC

Join by phone: +1-415-655-0002 US Toll

(B) Login To Use for Remote Attendance

<https://uconn-cmr.webex.com/uconn-cmr/j.php?MTID=mbad0727ca947a67e74bc764c76726bf4>

Meeting number: 2634 003 8642

Meeting Password: NRWC

Join by phone: +1-415-655-0002 US Toll

