



# Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

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## Minutes

Niantic River Watershed Committee

Monitoring Subcommittee Meeting

November 6, 2025 – Following Regular BOD Meeting

Conference Room 1 – East Lyme Town Hall

Attendees: Don Danila, Chris Tomichek, Dave Turner, Jamie Vaudrey, and Susan Gonzalez.

1. Don opened the meeting at 7:05 PM.
2. Chris moved and Susan seconded to approve the March 2025 Monitoring Subcommittee meeting minutes. Approved unanimously.
3. Discussion of 2025 planned outfall bacterial water sampling:

Jamie noted she would like to discuss further eDNA sampling with Maureen FitzGerald of the Town of Waterford. Based on previous findings, our future focus might be on Stony Brook. However, Oil Mill Brook (OMB) also has high bacterial counts and work there may also be pursued. Winter sampling should be okay if there are no problems with weather or collecting, so we will move forward with it. For an upstream OMB site, Don suggested contacting Deb Moshier-Dunn to approach a homeowner whose land is near where Willys Meadow Brook joins OMB. This is where he had a long-range water temperature reorder placed and the homeowner was very cooperative.

4. 2024 RBV Sampling Results:

Don noted that he and the Hellers have decided to forego any RBV sampling this year and in the future. It has been very difficult to schedule sampling due to personnel availability and varying stream flow conditions. This team has performed RBV sampling since 2012. Future work might be conducted by Ashley Hamilton and others at the National Estuarine Research Reserve. Jamie concurred that Ashley has an interest in this program. Required training provided by DEEP may be an issue.

5. Partner Reports:

There were no partner reports.

6. New Business:

Don noted that there was a decreased need to hold separate Monitoring Subcommittee meetings as the work is straight-forward and is also mostly discussed during full Committee meetings, making a separate meeting redundant. He moved and Dave seconded the motion that future separate Monitoring Subcommittee meetings will not be scheduled unless there is a good reason to do so. Approved unanimously.

7. Based on our approved motion, the April 2, 2026 Monitoring Subcommittee meeting will not occur.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 PM.



## **Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.**

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Respectfully submitted,

Donald Danila

Chairman, NRWC Monitoring Subcommittee