



Niantic River Watershed Committee, Inc.

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

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EAST LYME, CT

Minutes

**NRWC Board of Directors Meeting
October 2, 2025, 6 PM**

Attendees: Susan Gonzalez, Town of East Lyme; Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Amy Cabaniss, Town of East Lyme; Jamie Vaudrey, NRWC Coordinator; Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management/Shellfish Commission; Jim Paganetti, Town of Waterford; Dave Turner, Town of Montville; Dominic Anziano, SECOG

Excused: Nate Hermann, Town of Montville; Chris Tomichuk, Town of Waterford; Don Danila, Town of East Lyme

1. **Call to Order:** S. Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.
2. **Seating of Alternates:** Motion by D. Landers to seat A. Cabaniss for the Town of Salem, seconded by P. Harris. Motion passes.
3. **Welcomes and Introductions** D. Anziano, Planner, Southeastern Council of Governments (SECOG)
4. **Review and Approval of September 4 Minutes:** 6e. correction needed: Larry Tytla will need to go to the Waterford Town Hall to be sworn in. D. Landers moves to approve Minutes as amended. P. Harris seconds. Motion passes.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** D. Danila provided the treasurer's report ahead of time and there were no questions or objections from the committee. D. Landers moves to approve the report as written. P. Harris seconds. Motion passes.
6. **Coordinator's Report:** J. Vaudrey provided a coordinator's report on the following topics.
 - a. Bacteria sampling
Latimer Brook: bacteria count of 41 (good – around the limit); other sites (6); SB2 – Stony Brook at US Rte 1 (1000 – very high); North Parkway 340; Kittie's Beach (low); Oil Mill Brook at Gurley Rd. (520 – also high)
eDNA detected from humans was high at Stony Brook Rte 1 and Kittie's Beach; Oil Mill Brook at Gurley Rd.; from swine – Stony Brook near Sonalysts; Oil Mill Brook at Gurley Road; Kitties Beach (highest). No eDNA detected from geese or sheep. Bovine and chicken eDNA showed up at different locations (than those mentioned here).
J. Vaudrey will access some additional new sites.
 - b. EnviroScape – Riley is working on the curriculum and went through lesson plans by grade level. He is finishing it up, after which J. Vaudrey and A. Cabaniss will look it over, along with the scripts to which they'll add in East Lyme information. A matrix of the lessons will be posted on the NRWC Google Drive for teacher access.
 - c. J. Vaudrey invited A. Cabaniss to share a revised EnviroScape cover letter and loan agreement (to include an inventory list for each of the two models), highlighting the



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changes made to each document. D. Landers and J. Paganetti indicated support for the Loan Default wording with replacement value stated for a full model and case. A. Cabaniss will send the revised cover letter and loan agreement to the full Board by email for comment in October for a motion at the November meeting.

- d. Report card – A listening session held on September 9th as part of the report card. This included discussion regarding what individuals value and worry about in the watershed, among other things, to flag top topics to address that will become focal points of stories in the report card.
- e. Hole in the Wall – J. Vaudrey will again contact Dave Dickson, UConn CLEAR, for the November event. This is the best time for it given municipal workers have a short window of time between seasons. Jerry Lokken, Director of Parks and Recreation for East Lyme, says the event is 'a go'.
- f. Renewal of NRWC Board Member appointment – S. Gonzalez, C. Tomichuk, and D. Turner have been renewed. L. Tytla will be sworn in. J. Vaudrey will send letters to the Town of East Lyme for D. Danila and A. Cabaniss whose terms expire on January 5, 2026.
- g. Grant opportunities – Erik Mas of Fuss & O'Neill shared that CT DEEP grants became available today: New Coastal Habitat Restoration and State Green Stormwater Infrastructure Grant Program (\$7M, no match required) and Round 2 of the DEEP Climate Resilience Fund Grant Program. There will be Q&A sessions for the bigger grants. Applications are due on December 16th. J. Vaudrey will follow up with Erik Mas, Dan Mullins (ECCD), S. Gonzalez, and C. Tomichuk to see if we might proceed. The updated NRWC workplan will be revisited by the Board in consideration of this grant opportunity.

7. Town Matters:

- a. P. Harris shared that the Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission bought oysters from Tim Londregan to spread in the river.
- b. S. Gonzalez shared notes from D. Danila in his absence that he spoke with East Lyme High School teacher, Laura Ashburn, regarding the ELHS rain garden. Her students in the Ecology Club are doing maintenance on it and will consult with Marjorie Meekoff of the Pollinator Pathway. Some money may be in NRWC budget to provide for plants.
- c. S. Gonzalez was contacted by Suzanne Thompson regarding a Bioblitz on October 18th from 10am-6pm. Participants can stay for a shorter time.

8. Old Business: None.

9. Subcommittee Updates:

- a. Monitoring Group: D. Danila provided notes to be shared regarding RVB sampling at 4 sites (2 Latimer Br., 1 Cranberry Meadow, Four Mile River. Sampling is contingent on extent of flow. The 2024 RVB report is on the CT DEEP website. The Monitoring Group meets next month after the NRWC Board Meeting, at 7pm.



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- b. **Education/Outreach Group:** With interest expressed at the last board meeting in purchasing more NRWC-logo baseball caps, perhaps for sale, A. Cabaniss gauged interest in pursuing this option. D. Landers will communicate with a local vendor for cap purchase and logo screen-printing prices.
- 10. **Eastern CT Watershed Network Updates:** Events are being held although NRWC is not signed up to host events. N. Hermann is assisting with event planning. There is an MOU for N. Hermann's involvement with EECD and Remote Ecologist. J. Vaudrey will occasionally attend committee meetings (2 hours/month) with her time covered by EECD 319 funds.
- 11. **Public Comments:** D. Anziano is working on a regional plan of development and asking partners several questions related to this. He will email the questions to NRWC.
- 12. **New Business:** None.
- 13. **Public Comments:** None.
- 14. **Next meeting:** November 06, 6pm.
- 15. **Adjourn:** D. Landers moves to adjourn, J. Paganetti seconds. Motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Amy Cabaniss
Town of East Lyme
Alternate



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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