



Niantic River Watershed Committee

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Minutes

NRWC Board of Directors

January 5, 2012, 6 pm

914 Hartford Tpk – 2nd Flr, Waterford, CT

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
July 10, 2014 AT 2:15 AM/PM
Heather Palmieri
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Attendees: Elbert Burr, Town of Salem; Don Danila, Town of East Lyme; John Jasper, Town of East Lyme; Rick Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management; Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford; Ruth Savalle, Town of Salem; Marvin Schutt, Town of East Lyme; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Chris Tomichek, Town of Waterford; Dave Turner, Town of Montville; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator

1. Welcome: Judy Rondeau opened the meeting at 6:10 pm.
2. Review and Approval of December 7, 2011 Minutes: Don Landers made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Chris Tomichek. All in favor, motion carries.
3. Watershed Coordinator's Report: Judy reviewed her activities over the last month. Judy reported that Dave Turner's appointment has been completed by the Montville Town Council. She also reported that the Waterford Town Clerk has requested that NRWC submit agendas when meetings are held in Waterford. As this is a good practice, Judy will submit agendas to Waterford or East Lyme, whenever meetings are held at either Town Hall. Judy updated members on the activities of the Work Groups. Work is progressing well on the water quality monitoring program. Judy reported that attendance at the Outreach/Education Work Group has been poor. As we have several programs that are on hold, it is important to revitalize this work group to keep moving forward. Stream Walk training, utilizing the NRCS Stream Walk protocol, was held on December 3rd for members of the Monitoring Group and several guests. Stream walks will be conducted this summer to identify likely areas for riparian buffer restoration and other future Monitoring Group activities. Judy stated that she was informed that the EPA WQM loan equipment would be sent around Christmas time, but she hasn't received it. She will check into this. There are several grant opportunities that are due in the next few months. Judy is reviewing them to see if any can be used to advance the Buffer-in-a-Bag concept, and to explore the possibility of partnering with other organizations to conduct this project.

Niantic River Watershed...

The Niantic River Watershed Coordinator is supported in part by funding from the CT DEEP through a US EPA Clean Water Act §319 Nonpoint Source Program Grant.

...a Treasure Worth Protecting

4. Election of Officers: After discussion, Don Landers made a motion to propose the following slate of officers, seconded by Doug Lawson:
 - Chair – Chris Tomichek
 - Vice-Chair – Marvin Schutt
 - Secretary – Ruth Savalle
 - Treasurer - Dave Turner

There was no additional discussion, and no further nominations were proposed. Don Landers made a motion to close the nominations and move the motion, seconded by Marvin Schutt. Motion passed. Congratulations and thank you to the new officers!

5. Coordinator Funding Update: Directors updated the Board on the ongoing efforts to explore and secure additional funding for the Coordinator position. Directors have met with their respective chief elected officials to discuss funding. Chris Tomichek and Doug Lawson reported that Waterford is investigating the possibility of seeking funding through a regional grant program. Municipal funding, if secured, would most likely begin at the beginning of the upcoming fiscal year, which leaves a gap between February 28th, which is the end of ECCD funding for the position, and July 1st, the beginning of the new fiscal year. The Board discussed options to fund this gap period, including CWA §319 funds through CT DEEP, applying for gap funding through the Dominion Foundation, and approaching other groups for assistance to cover the four-month gap.
6. Review Plan of Work: The current (2011) Plan of Work is due for review and revision. Directors are asked to review and rank the goals, rate the activities as high, medium or low priority for discussion at next month's meeting, and otherwise update activities as needed.
7. Discussion Regarding 501c3: Judy distributed a guide entitled "How to Establish a 501c3," by the National Consumer Supporter Technical Assistance Center (NCSTAC) to Directors. She reported that we have funds remaining from a grant to enlist the assistance of an attorney to guide us through the 501c3 process. Dave Turner made a motion to form a subcommittee to investigate the 501c3 process, seconded by Don Landers. All in favor, the motion passed. Dave Turner, Marvin Schutt and Judy Rondeau volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Eric Thomas suggested the subcommittee discuss the process with the Rivers Alliance of CT staff. He also stated that the Rivers Alliance Small Grant program might provide funds for capacity building.
8. Working Group Updates:
 - a. Monitoring Group: Judy previously updated the Board during the Coordinator's report. Don Danila updated the Board on the Latimer Brook water quality monitoring site selection. Brief discussion ensued regarding access to the upper monitoring sites which may be on water company land. Don Landers informed the group that Fred Grimsey of Save-the-River, Save-the-Hills, has offered NRWC the use of his monitoring equipment until our equipment arrives from EPA. Brief discussion ensued regarding development of a Quality Assurance project Plan (QAPP). Eric Thomas stated that he did not feel that

the fact that we do not have a QAPP at this point in time should inhibit us from conducting monitoring. We can begin monitoring and develop the QAPP at a later date. Doug Lawson introduced discussion about coordinating monitoring efforts with other organizations that conduct monitoring, eg. health districts, shellfish commissions.

- b. Education/Outreach Group: Judy discussed this in the Coordinator's Report.
9. Next Meeting: **Thursday, February 2, 2012 at 6 pm**, 914 Hartford Tpk – 2nd Flr, Waterford, CT.
 10. Adjourn: Doug Lawson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ruth Savalle. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.