



# Niantic River Watershed Committee

[www.nianticriverwatershed.org](http://www.nianticriverwatershed.org)

Minutes  
NRWC Board of Directors  
September 6, 2012, 6:00pm  
914 Hartford Tpk – 2<sup>nd</sup> Flr, Waterford, CT

FILED IN EAST LYME  
CONNECTICUT  
JULY 10 2014 AT 2:15 AM/RM  
Helen Falco, Clerk  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Attendees: Don Danila, Town of East Lyme; John Jasper, Town of East Lyme; Rick Kanter, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Marc Lafrance, Town of Montville (appt. pending); Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management; Doug Lawson, Town of Waterford; Ruth Savalle, Town of Salem; Eric Thomas, CT DEEP; Chris Tomicheck, Town of Waterford; David Turner, Town of Montville; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator.

Excused: Elbert Burr, Town of Salem; Jeff Crouch, Town of Montville; Peter Harris, Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission; Marvin Schutt, Town of East Lyme.

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Chris Tomicheck called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.
2. Seating of Alternates: John Jasper made a motion to seat East Lyme alternate Don Danila, seconded by Ruth Savalle. All in favor, motion passes.
- 2a. New Agenda Item: *The Biogeochemical Circulation of the Niantic River Estuary with a Focus on Nitrogen: An Update from the NRWC* - Presentation by John Jasper. Don Danila made a motion to add item 2a to the agenda, seconded by Ruth Savalle. All in favor, motion passes. John Jasper shared with the Board a Powerpoint he had presented at the February 2012 Niantic River Nitrogen Working Group meeting in order to update Board members on nitrogen in the Niantic River. Discussion followed regarding the status of eelgrass in the river, including possible causes of the eelgrass dieback observed in the river this year.
3. Review and Approval of August 2, 2012 Meeting Minutes: Dave Turner made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Don Danila. All in favor, with one abstention, the motion passes.
4. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Dave Turner reviewed the budget. Discussion followed regarding the status of coordinator funding. Directors reported on efforts to secure municipal funding. Doug Lawson reported that Pratt & Whitney has a foundation program that provides support for non-profits that we should pursue once our non-profit status is secured. Eric Thomas noted that such support can serve as local contributory match for numerous state/federal grant programs. Don Landers noted the need for an updated NRWC brochure to distribute for both outreach and funding opportunities. Eric Thomas noted that CT SeaGrant has a small grant program that is suitable for NRWC activities.



# *Niantic River Watershed Committee*

[www.nianticriverwatershed.org](http://www.nianticriverwatershed.org)

Don Landers made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Doug Lawson. All in favor, report is accepted.

Don Landers suggested that the Board consider forming an audit committee to review the financial reports. Several board members noted that other organizations they participate with send their financial records to an independent auditor. Chair Chris Tomichek requested this be put on the October agenda for further discussion.

5. Coordinator's Report: Judy reviewed her activities for the previous month. In August, Judy and Don Danila met with Cassie Devney of the Long Island Sound Embayment Monitoring Project, which is compiling information regarding near-shore water quality monitoring by volunteer groups. Judy sent the draft Articles of Incorporation to Attorney Branse for his review. Judy notified watershed teachers that the Teacher Water Quality Loan Kit is available. One Waterford teacher has reserved it for the beginning of October. Judy scheduled Rapid Bioassessment workshops in partnership with The Last Green Valley, and has been working to identify sampling sites throughout the Niantic watershed. Judy has been looking into alternative meeting locations. Judy has been evaluating possible CWA §319 projects, including culvert surveys, for the upcoming grant round. Discussion followed. Dave Turner reported that he wasn't sure about the future availability of the current meeting space, but would keep the Board informed. Don Landers suggested the meeting room at the Pequot Commercial building right up the road. Ruth Savalle suggested the Chesterfield Fire House, also on Rt. 85. There was brief discussion about culvert surveys as a grant funded project. It was decided that because it is not a priority action item on our approved work plan, it should not be pursued at this time. It was further suggested that we should review the Plan of Work and craft a few action items into draft proposals for future funding opportunities
6. Old Business:
  - a. Establishment of bank account/transfer of funds: Treasurer Dave Turner recapped discussion from the August meeting. Several grants were applied for by ECCD on behalf of NRWC and need to stay with the Conservation District. The consensus was to wait until the 501c3 has been finalized before opening an account.
  - b. Saunders Point Sewer letter: No action on this item at this time.
  - c. Town Appeals: This was previously discussed in agenda item 4.
7. Subcommittee Updates
  - a. 501c3: This item was discussed in the coordinator's report.
  - b. Monitoring Group: Don Danila conducted sampling on August 20<sup>th</sup> and September 5<sup>th</sup>. The September sampling was a wet weather sampling. Don emailed the results



# *Niantic River Watershed Committee*

[www.nianticriverwatershed.org](http://www.nianticriverwatershed.org)

to the group for review. The highest nitrate measurements continue to come from Cranberry Meadow Brook. Don Landers noted the high concentration of horses and other livestock in the Walnut Hill Road area, and that the Town of East Lyme Agriculture Committee has identified that area for outreach. Eric Thomas noted that according to a study on barriers to the successful implementation of low impact development (LID) by the University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center, education on the local level, including public works and fire departments, is critical to removing implementation barriers.

- c. Education/Outreach Group: This item was discussed in the coordinator's report.
- d. Grant Review/Fundraising Subcommittee: This subcommittee has not yet met.

## 8. New Business:

- a. Eric Thomas reported that the 2012 draft Integrated Water Quality Report should be out for review in October. All Niantic tributaries are reported to be meeting recreational standards, but nutrient issues continue to exist.

9. Next meeting: October 4, 2012, 6 pm, at 914 Hartford Turnpike, Waterford, CT.

10. Adjourn: Don Landers made a motion to adjourn at 7:46 PM, seconded by Dave Turner. All in favor, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Rondeau".

Judy Rondeau  
Watershed Coordinator