



# *Niantic River Watershed Committee*

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**Minutes**  
**NRWC Board of Directors**  
**December 7, 2011 @ 6 pm**  
**914 Hartford Tpk – 2<sup>nd</sup> Flr, Waterford, CT**

FILED IN EAST LYME  
CONNECTICUT  
July 10, 2014 AT 2:15 AM (PM)  
Caitlin Salbo, Clerk  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Attendees: Don Danila, East Lyme; John Jasper, East Lyme; Don Landers, East Lyme Harbor Management; Doug Lawson, Waterford; Ruth Savalle, Salem; Marvin Schutt, East Lyme; Chris Tomichek, Waterford; Dave Turner, Montville; Judy Rondeau, Watershed Coordinator

1. Welcome: Judy Rondeau opened the meeting at 6:14 pm.
2. Watershed Coordinator's Report: Judy reviewed her activities since the October meeting. A full copy of the report will be sent with these minutes. Relative to her report about the Appeal letters, Don Landers commented that the CEOs will be attending the December 15<sup>th</sup> Southeast CT Council of Governments (SECCOG) meeting, and Directors should try to speak with their respective CEOs prior to that meeting. Judy reported that Juliana Barrett of CT SeaGrant has requested that NRWC partner with SeaGrant to test a new nitrogen model, called N-Sink, which models the transport of nitrogen through a watershed. Judy shared information on the model with Directors, as well as a Letter of Support to the CT Institute of Water Resources (at UConn), which is funding the project. Regarding the needed revitalization of the Education/Outreach Work Group, Marvin reported that he recently spoke with an inactive member who is eager to rejoin the group. Judy shared information on the Long Island Sound SoundVision Action Plan. This item will be placed on next month's agenda for further discussion. Don Landers made a motion to accept the Coordinator's Report, seconded by Chris Tomichek. All in favor, the Coordinator's Report was accepted.
- 2a. Review and Approval of October 26, 2011 Minutes: Don Landers made a motion to add agenda item 2a, Review and Approval of October 26, 2011 Minutes, to the agenda, seconded by Marvin Schutt. All in favor, item was added to the agenda. Chris Tomichek made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Don Landers. All in favor, minutes were accepted as presented.

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3. Review and Acceptance:
  - a. By-laws: The Directors reviewed the draft By-laws as approved by the Board Development Committee on 11/9/10, and revised per discussion at the October 26, 2011 Board meeting. Chris Tomichek made a motion to approve the By-Laws as amended, seconded by Marvin Schutt. Discussion followed. The following additional amendments will be made: 1) page numbers will be added; 2) Article I, shellfishing is one word; 3) Article IV Part D, the second part of the sentence, after the comma, will read "the Chairperson shall send a letter to the chief executive officer of the member entity requesting that a new director be appointed."; 4) Article VII, a line space will be added between the third and fourth paragraphs; and 5) Article VIII, the words "charter members of the" will be struck. All were in favor of the proposed By-Laws as amended. By-Laws were approved by unanimous vote.
  - b. Mission Statement: As the Mission Statement was included as Article I of the By-laws, which were approved in the previous item, the Mission Statement was approved.
  - c. Logo: Ruth Savalle made a motion to approve the logo, seconded by John Jasper. All in favor, the logo was approved. Members commended the efforts of Bob DeSanto, who designed the logo for the Watershed Committee.
4. Election of Officers: As several Directors are awaiting appointment, and several Directors were not present, it was the consensus to table this item until the next meeting. Dave Turner updated Directors on the status of his appointment, which should be completed at the next Montville Town Council meeting. He also informed the Board that he had been contacted by a prospective Director from Montville. Directors asked about the status of the DEEP liaison. Judy shared information provided by Eric Thomas regarding the procedure for appointing DEEP staff to similar committees.
5. Review Plan of Work: The current (2011) Plan of Work is due for review and revision. Directors are asked to review it and be prepared for discussion at next month's meeting.
6. Review Proposed 2012 Meeting Schedule: Directors reviewed the proposed 2012 meeting schedule. Ruth Savalle reported that she had other meeting conflicts on the first Wednesday of the month. After brief discussion, Directors decided on the first Thursday of each month at 6 pm for the Board of Directors meeting. Meetings will be held at 914 Hartford Turnpike, Waterford, CT., until further notice. Judy will revise the proposed schedule and submit it to the Clerks of the four watershed towns. Don Landers made a

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motion to accept the meeting schedule as amended, seconded by John Jasper. All in favor, the 2012 Board of Directors meeting schedule was approved.

7. Discussion Regarding Coordinator Funding: Judy reported that two grant opportunities she reviewed since the last meeting (Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut and CT Office of Policy and Management) were not applicable to funding the Watershed Coordinator position. She is currently reviewing two grants, NFWF Five Star Restoration Program grant and EPA Urban Waters Small Grants. She cautioned that both are national grants and are extremely competitive. Judy also informed the Board that although the current CWA §319 grant ends mid-December, the Eastern CT Conservation District will continue to fund the Coordinator position through February 2012. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of accepting donations through mechanisms such as the United Way, accepting membership as a mechanism for raising funds, and conducting fundraising activities. Directors discussed the benefits of establishing non-profit status. Judy reported that the Committee has funds on retainer with an attorney that could be applied towards applying for 501c3 status.
8. Working Group Updates:
  - a. Monitoring Group: Judy reported that Stream Walk training utilizing the NRCS Stream Walk protocol was held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> for members of the Monitoring Group and several guests. This protocol will be used to identify likely areas for water quality monitoring, riparian buffer restoration and other future Monitoring Group activities. The focus of the next Monitoring Group meeting (Tuesday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, 4 pm, LTA Room, Waterford Town Hall) will be to identify likely areas to conduct water quality sampling on Latimer Brook. Don Landers asked about the status of the EPA volunteer water quality monitoring equipment we applied for. Judy stated she has not heard from Diane Switzer of EPA regarding distribution of the equipment, but will contact her.
  - b. Education/Outreach Group: Judy reported that last month's Education/Outreach Group meeting was poorly attended. It will be necessary to revitalize the group in order to move forward with Education/Outreach programs, including the Teacher Loan Kits, among other projects. Judy asked that Directors reach out to inactive members, and recruit new members who could benefit the Education/Outreach Work Group. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, 5 pm, in the LTA Room at the Waterford Town Hall.

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9. Next Meeting: **Thursday, January 5, 2012 at 6 pm**, 914 Hartford Tpk – 2<sup>nd</sup> Flr, Waterford, CT.
  
10. Adjourn: Chris Tomichek made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 pm, seconded by Ruth Savalle. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

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