

Niantic River Watershed Happenings (3/09)

“Niantic River Watershed Happenings” is an impressive list of accomplishments conducted by many individuals, organizations, town officials and local, state or federal departments in the Niantic River and Bay Watershed. These activities whether great or small all contribute towards the goal of maintaining and improving water quality. It is an opportunity to celebrate and give recognition to all that has been accomplished to date.

Planning Efforts

- Final draft of *Guided Summary* of the full *Niantic River Watershed Management Plan* was completed, sent to the four watershed towns and associated organizations for comment, with final document to be submitted by end of March 2009.
- Meeting with town representatives and CEOs to discuss plan adoption and possibility of **Niantic River Watershed Board**
- **Salem, Montville, Waterford and East Lyme** - Anticipated incorporation of portions of Niantic River Watershed Resource Mapping and plan recommendations into all four towns’ “Plan of Conservation and Development” and land-use regulations
- **Waterford**-Stony Brook Watershed Management Plan focusing on water quality and wetland protection by Waterford Conservation Commission (Stony Brook is a tributary of the Niantic River)
- **East Lyme**-Adoption of Stormwater Regulations, emphasizing Low Impact Development methods
- **East Lyme**-Establishment of East Lyme Conservation of Natural Resources Commission
- **Waterford**-Partnership with UCONN Ext. to produce a Field Guide to Coastal Resource Protection
- **Montville**-Update of Inland Wetland Regulations
- **Waterford** - Stormwater regulation forum partnering with NEMO
- **Salem** - Completed Conservation and Open Space Plan with references to potential open space corridor links connecting Niantic and Eight Mile River Watersheds
- **East Lyme**-Town-wide workshops on Smart Growth, Drinking Water Supply Protection, Natural Resource Protection and Agriculture

Monitoring

- Establishment of three water quality stream monitoring stations on **Latimer, Oil Mill and Stony Brooks** by **USGS**. Direct connection to monitoring data is available through website www.nianticriverwatershed.org
- Continued water quality monitoring of the Niantic River by **Save the River-Save the Hills**
- Continued nitrogen groundwater monitoring studies by **USGS**
- Continued water quality monitoring efforts by **East Lyme-Waterford, East Lyme Shellfish Boards and Ledgelight Health District**
- Continued water monitoring for water quality and aquatic life-**Dominion, Inc.**
- 2009 planned **Department of Environmental Protection** water quality monitoring in region

Outreach Efforts

- Development of a website for Niantic River Watershed: www.nianticriverwatershed.org
- Numerous outreach events to schools and general public by participation in local fairs, classroom discussions and public information sessions. For a list of outreach activities and responsible parties, please refer to website above.
- Cooperation with local municipalities to display information about Niantic River Watershed through displays, municipal websites and distribution of
- **Children's Museum**, Display by the **Save the River-Save the Hills** group on the Niantic River Watershed-on its way.
- **Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program** between **UCONN** and cooperating crop farmers and nurseries in watershed
- **2008 Annual Kayak Regatta** by **Save the River-Save the Hills**
- **Salem**-Creation of Sub-Committee of Inland Wetlands Commission for Education and Outreach
- Continued outreach by **City of New London Water Department** to landowners within the Lake Konomac watershed.

River Clean-Up

- Annual river clean-up sponsored by **Save the River-Save the Hills**
- **East Lyme High School-Beach Clean-up**
- Continued free boat pumpout service offered by **Save the River-Save the Hills** on the Niantic River

Staffing

- Continued funding for Watershed Coordinator-**Eastern Connecticut Conservation District** (8 hours a week per current contract). Funding through **EPA 319** funds, administered through **DEP**.

Stormwater/Sewer Projects

- **East Lyme**-Completion of “**Hole in the Wall Stormwater Project**”, an outdoor classroom and demonstration site for Stormwater Treatment Methods
- **East Lyme**-Completion of concept design and outreach material for **Children’s Museum of Southeastern Connecticut** stormwater retrofit project, spot-lighting what can be done on individual lots – project to be completed late spring.
- **Montville**-Outfitting of snow plow trucks with thermometers to measure road temperatures allowing minimizing over-application of deicing materials
- **Montville**-Request for assistance with multi-language approach to catch basin marking “Do not dump-drains to LIS”
- **East Lyme**-Town Hall - Lawn Care Demonstration project
- **East Lyme**-Installation of sanitary sewer lines at Pine Grove

Business Successes

- **Three Belles Marina**-East Lyme-Clean Marina Certification

Funding

- Received \$5,000 grant from **Rivers Alliance** for work towards establishing a Watershed Board
- Continued funding request from submitted to **DEP** by **USGS** for three stream monitoring stations
- Funding for **Watershed Coordinator** through August 2009. Funding through **EPA 319** funds, administered by **DEP**
- Requested funding for **Watershed Coordinator** 2009-2010 submitted to **DEP**
- Requested funding for Riparian Buffer Outreach and Workshops targeting Niantic River Watershed submitted by **Connecticut Sea Grant College Program/NEMO Program**, in cooperation with **Town of Waterford, Eastern Connecticut Conservation District & Save the River-Save the Hills**
- Requested funding for “Sound Decisions” Radio, Podcast, Print, Social Marketing submitted by **Save the River – Save the Hills, Inc.** in partnership with **Suzanne Thompson** with support from **Eastern Connecticut Conservation District**

Awards

- **Fred Grimsey**- President of **Save the River-Save the Hills**, EPA Volunteer Award-2008
- Local **Shellfish Commission Award**

Land Preservation

- 400 acre land acquisition in watershed (**Oswegatchie Preserve**)