



Application ID	2170890
Submitted	Jan 14, 2026
Status	Awaiting review
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Organization	Southwest Conservation District, Inc. 51 Mill Pond Road, , CT, 06514, United States
Program and cycle	TCF: Quinnipiac River Fund Grant cycle
Tags	No tags
Forms	TCF: Quinnipiac River Fund Final Report

Grant Details

Organization Name

Southwest Conservation District, Inc.

Grant Description

to support the Quinnipiac River Watershed Coordinator position.

Total Grant Amount

\$11,660.00 USD

Report Questions

Report Questions

1. List the specific objectives/outcomes of the project and tell how they were met during the grant period. Also, provide an update on any special conditions of the grant (if applicable). *

The SWCD maintained a watershed coordinator position for the Quinnipiac and its tributaries housed out of our offices in Hamden. This staff person used dedicated time to work in the Quinnipiac watershed. SWCD successfully coordinated regular meetings with stakeholders in the watershed. These meetings were held via zoom and involved municipal staff and commissioners, State Representatives, NGOs, and concerned citizens. SWCD also conducted water quality monitoring throughout the Quinnipiac watershed and tributaries, looking for sources of bacteria that are impairing the waterways for recreational uses. This past summer SWCD was able to expand the number of monitoring locations, in particular starting investigations in Muddy River in North Haven with support of municipal staff for site selections.

At the time of this submittal, reports are being drafted and SWCD is scheduling presentations in the municipalities with these impaired waters. SWCD hired two interns for the summer to assist with these water quality monitoring efforts. Funds for these interns came from SWCD and could be considered a match for the grant funding received for this Coordinator position.

SWCD also successfully conducted streamwalks on river segments in the watershed. These efforts utilized volunteers from the stakeholder meetings to assist with gathering information about the immediate stream corridor. Additional streamwalking was done with the assistance of SWCD interns to help with source tracking and additional monitoring locations for the bacteria sampling

2. Please share your successes, challenges and any lessons learned through the implementation of your project. Were there any unintended consequences or lessons learned that may affect how you operate your program moving forward? *

SWCD has successfully conducted water quality monitoring and has had our results accepted by CT DEEP for inclusion in their water reports to EPA. In addition, SWCD believes to have found an area in one municipality where there is likely failed sewer infrastructure causing large bacteria loads to enter the waterway. SWCD has shared this information with the Town and is working to further dial in the location of the probable failure. The town has stated they will work to make repairs as the location is finalized with additional waterquality

information.

A challenge of this project has been to get more volunteers to participate in streamwalks. Finding scheduled time for this work that matches with volunteer interest and availability has been an ongoing issue. The view of the stream from within the channel is a truly eyeopening experience. The information gathered is helpful, but a large part of the objective is to expose residents to this perspective of the waterways. In an effort to get more volunteers for stream walking, our plan will be to set "event" dates and do walks at set times with significant advance notice to allow for scheduling. Trying to get groups to agree to times from their side of the schedule has proven to be less effective as an approach.

Another challenge we are facing is that lab supplies have been increasing in costs. The amount SWCD has requested from the Foundation, doesnt fully cover the expenses SWCD experiences to provide water quality data. SWCD is increasing the per sample cost to groups that can afford to pay for sampling, but much of our sampling is paid for with operating expenses or funds such as this grant.

3. What are the opportunities and needs of your organization as it continues to move forward with its work to positively impact the Quinnipiac River? *

SWCD requires and has requested continued funding for the Coordinator position. The salary request allows our organization to dedicate staff time and resources to coordinating and organizing activities within the watershed. The lab supplies request also helps to keep lab expenses in check for conducting our water quality investigations throughout the Quinnipiac River Watershed and its tributaries.

Attachments

Detailed Accounting*

See budget expenditures table 2025.docx

Picture 1

See image of Muddy River E.coli data results 2025.jpg

Description and Photo Credit

Graph of e.coli water quality results in the Muddy River. Several exceedances of CT Water Quality Standards were discovered through SWCD sampling

Picture 2

No file uploaded

Description and Photo Credit

No answer

Picture 3

No file uploaded

Description and Photo Credit

No answer