

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Mill River Wetland Committee of Fairfield Announces a New Executive Director

Jessica Kochiss will assist the 43 year-old nonprofit in promoting environmental education and advancing the mission of River-Lab, a unique hands-on program of environmental study for grades 3-6 in Fairfield schools

FAIRFIELD, CT- The Mill River Wetland Committee, Inc. (MRWC) is announcing the addition of a new executive director, Jessica Kochiss, to support the nonprofit's core mission of strengthening environmental education through the study of river basin systems.

This esteemed, award-winning organization has tapped Ms. Kochiss as executive director because she has a record of success in the areas of marketing, communications, and community outreach in the field of education. Most recently, she served as the marketing manager at American University for the School of Public Affairs for over four years in Washington, DC. Beyond her professional credentials, she has earned a bachelor's degree from Clemson University and a master's degree from Georgetown University.

"I am very excited to be joining an organization with the long and respected history of the Mill River Wetland Committee and their River-Lab program," said Ms. Kochiss. "The group's passion for protecting the wetlands and unwavering commitment to educating the children of Fairfield is incredibly admirable. The need for this type of environmental education is critical considering the local and national events we have seen unfold over the past year".

With its dedicated board, knowledgeable volunteers, and generous donors, the MRWC is poised to continue providing this valuable service to the community. Each year, more than 160 volunteers guide over 3,500 children through more than 650 study-trips. In consultation with educators and environmental experts, River-Lab provides classroom materials and activities for students, extensive training for study-trip guides, and professional development for teachers. At each grade level, classroom training is enhanced by study-trips to the Mill River and town estuaries.

As Ms. Kochiss and the leadership of the MRWC work to advocate on behalf of this treasured environmental education program, feel free to contact them to offer support through volunteerism or donations at 203.259.1847.

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The Mill River Wetland Committee, Inc. is an award winning nonprofit organization founded in 1967 to strengthen environmental education through the study of river basin systems. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, MRWC promoted purchase of open space along the Mill River in Fairfield, Connecticut, and took a leading role in the defense of endangered wetlands. Concern for our environmental future prompted the launching of River-Lab, a unique hands-on program of environmental study for grades 3-6 in all public schools in Fairfield. All elements of the program have been adopted as part of the science curriculum.