

**Representative Policy Board  
Land Use Committee  
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District**

**Minutes of February 8, 2023 Meeting**

The regular meeting of the Land Use Committee of the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District (“RWA”) took place on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, via remote access. Chair Betkoski presided.

**Committee Members:** P. Betkoski, P. DeSantis, B. Eitzer, R. Harvey, M. Horbal, M. Levine, G. Malloy, J. Oslander, and J. Mowat Young

**RPB:** C. Havrda

**Authority:** C. LaMarr

**Management:** J. Hill, S. Lakshminarayanan, N. Smith, and J. Triana

**Staff:** J. Slubowski

Chair Betkoski called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

Chair Betkoski called for a moment of silence in remembrance of Anthony DiSalvo, prior Authority member.

On motion made by Mr. Horbal, seconded by Mr. Eitzer, the Committee approved the minutes of its January 11, 2023 meeting.

At 5:32 p.m., Ms. Young entered the meeting.

Ms. Smith, the RWA’s Natural Resources Analyst, provided a Deer Hunt Update, which included:

- Historical review of the program
- Hunting areas
- Regeneration
- Application process and survey reports
- Changes made in 2022
- Harvest totals
- Impact, analysis, and reporting

At 5:55 p.m., Mr. Levine entered the meeting.

Committee members discussed year-over-year deer population decrease, Sunday hunting restriction, and hunting methods.

At 5:58 p.m., Ms. Smith withdrew from the meeting.

Chair Betkoski reported that the March 8<sup>th</sup> committee meeting would be hybrid and that the committee would receive an update from the RWA’s Bee Keeper, Vincent Kay. Members may attend in person at 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven or by remote access.

Update on *The Land We Need for the Water We Use Program* – Mr. Triana, the RWA’s Real Estate Manager, reported:

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average	Drought Status
January 31, 2023	90%	87%	77%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
January 2023	4.89	2.68	3.57
Fiscal YTD (6/1/22 – 1/31/23)	28.75	33.81	30.68

Land We Need for the Water We Use Program (Dispositions/Acquisitions)

- Prospect, off Roaring Brook Rd. – P&SA executed by both sides. Draft survey reviewed. Total acreage is 43.34. Submitted application to The Watershed Fund for \$20,000 to help offset cost of the acquisition.
- Branford – Corresponded with property owner of 12+/- acres.
- North Branford – Corresponded with property owner or 40+/- acres.
- Madison – Corresponded with property owner or 7+/- acres.
- North Branford, Beech St. and Poms La. properties (NB 4) – Murtha confirmed with Assessor that the “island parcel” could be split administratively, but didn’t want to do it until after the GL was finalized (1/31/23). Spoke to NBLCT and DEEP staff about the language that we used in a draft deed that was included in NBLCT’s OSWLA application.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Appraiser completed appraisal of area to be condemned by town. Emailed Asst. Town Attorney to get status update of the matter. Last of tires removed and the driveway was blocked with a large tree.
- Hamden, 95 Ives St. - Corresponded with owner about work at the property. Article published in the NH Register about work on the house.
- Guilford, 1155 Great Hill Rd. – Noticed unapproved shed on the property and contacted owner. Will inspect the property in February.

Forestry Update

- Killingworth - East Hammonasset Leaf Screen Thinning, (KI 4) – **70% complete.**
- Hamden - Overstory removal and Tornado Salvage, (HA 36) – Not started yet. May be pushed to summer due to ground conditions.
- Killingworth - N. Chestnut Hill Patch Cuts, (KI 6) – **35% complete.**
  - Woodcutter in Guilford (Prifitera) completed the road on his property and his firewood permit was reinstated.
  - Replied to inquiry about the timber sale off of Abner Lane Rd. in Killingworth.
  - Worked with RWA Operations staff and PermaTreat to establish access for the second landing off of North Chestnut Hill Road.
  - Corresponded with Seymour town staff about water ponding on Haddad Rd. near the log landing.
  - Looked into the request to expand the PA 490 forest-land classification for two parcels in Guilford, and researched opportunities for tax abatement for open space/non-forestland.
  - Worked with professional deer hunter to remove deer from within the Nathan’s Pond slash wall.

Recreation

- Bird walk at Lake Bethany had 20 participants.
- Annual DPH reports were submitted.
- Trails were cleared of downed trees at Lake Chamberlain and Lake Bethany.
- Continued process for hiring new recreation staff for the 2024 fishing season.
- Collected information for the next newsletter.
- Granted request from NBLCT to use wood chips at Gaillard for their trail coming from the Harrison Preserve.
- Responded to inquiry about metal detecting on our property.

	January		December	
	2023	2022	2022	2021
Permit Holders	4,847	5,605	4,851	5,655

Special Activity Permits

- Central CT State University, (Katerina Gillis and Dr. Paul Hapeman, PhD., John Correia,)- provide a better understanding of the distribution of fisher in suitable habitats throughout Connecticut, Lake Saltonstall area, (2/4/2023-2/19/2023).
- New Haven Bird Club (Patrick T. Leahy) – Maintain and monitor bluebird nesting boxes on 7 sites – Downes Road, Bethany, adjacent to Lake Bethany property and field below Lake Dawson dam, Woodbridge, farm field on Sperry Road and Lake Chamberlain below the dam, Lake Watrous and other properties – 1/5/23-12/31/23.
- Branford Land Trust (Tom Cleveland ) - Tracking class - Lake Saltonstall woods - 1/28/23 (Rain Date: 1/29/2023) & 2/25/2023 (Rain Date: 2/26/2023).

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
  - Agricultural agreements – Corresponded with the tenant of the Matthew St. field in Prospect. Met prospective tenant at North St., North Branford to discuss use of the fields for Christmas trees.
  - North Branford, Forest Rd. (NB 17) – Sent letters to many abutters about encroachments after remarking the boundary.
  - West Haven, Shingle Hill tanks (WH 7) – Corresponded with consultant for Yale to place radio repeater at the tanks.
  - Hamden, 364 Putnam Ave. (HA 8) – Signed license agreement with abutter to use our property while they rebuild a retaining wall.
  - Cell phone towers – Authorized changes at Orange site for Verizon antennas. TMobile expects to work on the Rabbit Rock Tank (NO 1) generator.
  - Hamden, New Haven Country Club (HA 5) – Talked to NHCC president about the license agreement for the parking area which will expire at the end of this year.
  - Trespassing – Recorded instances of trespassing including ATV’s, hikers with dogs, and hikers in unpermitted areas, people illegally parking, and illegal fishing.
- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in North Branford, Bethany, and Woodbridge.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	181.21 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	12 acres

- East Haven, Beach Ave. watermain – The easement was executed and recorded by the town.
- Deer hunt – Post-hunt surveys were returned. Reviewed planned schedule for this year.
- Seymour, Great Hill Reservoir – Corresponded with consultants for the town about any plans we had of the dam. Noted that we don't have anything since it was conveyed before we bought the BUI system.
- Coyotes – Responded to reporter looking for information on coyotes. Article was published in the NH Register.
- Ansonia, Kimberly La. – Responded to owner of 303 Kimberly La. after he called again about marking our boundaries. Informed him once more that we do not own the property next to his – the state does.
- Boundaries – Completed remarking of boundaries in Guilford (GU 9). Started additional property lines in Guilford (GU 12), Woodbridge (WO 16), and Killingworth (KI 11).
- Met with Operations staff to discuss removing trees from water main ROW's and easements and maintaining these areas in the future.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:23 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Levine, seconded by Mr. Malloy, and unanimously carried, the committee meeting adjourned.

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Peter Betkoski, Chairman