

Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
April 8, 2026

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Land Use Committee (“Committee”) of the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”), of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District (“RWA”), took place on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut. Chair Levine presided.

Committee Members Present: M. Levine(R), P. Betkoski(R), P. DeSantis(R), B. Eitzer(R), G. Malloy, and J. Mowat Young

RPB: R. Harvey, N. Campbell(R), C. Havrda(R), S. Iacuone(R), C. Mancini(R)

Authority: T. Cort(R) and M. Ricoszi(R)

Management: J. Triana and N. Smith

Staff: J. Slubowski

Chair Levine called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The Committee held a moment of silence in remembrance of Joseph A. Oslander.

Chair Levine reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Mr. Malloy and seconded by Mr. Eitzer, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of its March 11, 2026 regular meeting.

At 5:36 p.m., Ms. Young entered the meeting.

Ms. Smith, the RWA’s Natural Resources Analyst, provided an update of the 2025 Controlled Archery Deer Hunt which covered 4,327 acres across four RWA owned properties. She stated that the program, which began in 2009, was originated to reduce deer density, promote forest regeneration, and control erosion and the growth of invasive species.

Ms. Smith reported that the 2025 season included 246 applications, with 182 participants engaging in 10 days of scouting and 30 days of hunting, resulting in a harvest of 27 deer. North Branford had the highest harvest with 19 deer, followed by Prospect (6), Bethany (1), and Seymour/Ansonia (1).

Historical data shows a decline in total harvest numbers, which could be the result of a dry summer and/or acorn availability. Surveys collected showed an 88% return rate, with hunters logging a total of 5,616.25 hours across all properties. At the end of the season, hunters expressed gratitude for the opportunity, and no accidents or negative publicity were reported.

Committee members discussed risk, insurance, deer population studies, and participant data.

At 6:03 p.m., Ms. Smith withdrew from the meeting.

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
March 31	91%	90%	91%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
March 31	4.66	4.57	4.35
Fiscal YTD (6/1/24 –	24.64	34.06	38.30

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

- Killingworth, Abner Lane Rd. (KI 6) – Killingworth Land Trust is still considering the proposal.
- Madison – correspondence with property owner of 14+/- acres.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. – Survey was updated. Public bid went out.

Forestry Update

- First person used retrac to pay for their firewood permit.
- Corresponded with Chestnut Foundation members to discuss planting chestnuts in forest settings.

Recreation

- Held winter tree identification walk at the LWWTP with 15 attendees.
- Ordered two new boats for the fishing program.
- Received emails commenting on the Sugarloaf recreation area as requested in the newsletter.
- Met with Woodbridge Trail Master to discuss trails across our property.
- Three people were offered recreation positions and two accepted and followed through to orientation.
- Permit requests for two bass tournaments at Lake Saltonstall were submitted to DEEP.

	March		February	
	2026	2025	2025	2024
Permit Holders	4,870	4,842	4,811	4,730

Special Activity Permits

- Hamden Fire Department (Chief Shelly Carter) – ice water rescue training refresher, Clark’s Pond (3/16/26 thru 3/19/26).
- 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 – (3/12/2026 – 12/31/2026).
- Connecticut State Police K9 Unit (Mr. Ryan Cloukey and designees)-training K9 teams in the discipline of tracking, Lake Gaillard, (3/13/2026 – 3/13/2027).
- Connecticut Butterfly Association (Tom Kelly)-observation of area for West Virginia White (Pieris Virgenienis) butterfly, Reeds Gap Road, North Branford, (4/1/2026 – 5/1/2026).

- Connecticut Butterfly Association (Tom Kelly)-observation within Atlantic White Cedar Swamp, Cedar Swamp Road, Madison, (5/1/2026 – 6/1/2026).

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Madison, 752 Summer Hill Rd. (MA 9) – Contacted owner to check the property line.
 - West Haven, Shingle Hill tanks (WH 7) – Murtha sent another email to the City Council Administrator. City staff replied that they would review the draft.
 - Seymour, EMS equipment at SWF (SE 1) – Executed new agreement with the Town for emergency radio equipment at the wellfield.
 - East Haven, Barberry Rd. fields (EH 9, 10, 11, & 13) – Met with more GreenVest staff about other possible projects to work on. GV installed the monitoring wells at Barberry Rd. Replied to question from abutter about the project.
 - North Branford, 217 Forest Rd. (NB 17) – Sent termination of license agreement to owners since they were selling the property.
 - North Branford, 171 Beech St. (NB 4A) – Abutter moved his truck to his property after being notified.
- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in North Branford.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	1.2 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	1.2 acres

- Land Use Plan – LUP update was determined to be complete by the LUC and forwarded to the full RPB. RPB set the date of the public hearing. Notifications were sent to the papers, town clerks, and interested groups.
- Branford, 325 East Main St. easement – Executed the easement amendment and sent to the owners.
- Deer hunt – Lottery application forms were sent to prospective hunters for the 2026 season.
- Bethany, Green Haven/Rocky Corner development – Reviewed and commented on draft easement and survey. Met with representative of Sunwood Development to discuss the survey.
- New Haven, Sachem St. easement – Yale staff supplied a draft easement with their markups at the end of the month.
- Bethany, Downs Rd. status – Researched question about the status of Downs Rd. in Bethany for Engineering. After the NHWC constructed the new road, the town was responsible for maintenance, including the culvert.
- Forest fire tabletop exercise – Participated in tabletop exercise considering a forest fire on the Saltonstall ridge.
- Boundaries – Checked and remarked boundaries in Madison and North Branford.

Committee members commented on the importance of long-term investment in trail maintenance.

Chair Levine noted the following upcoming meetings:

- Monday, April 13, 2026 at 5:00 p.m., hybrid (*Finance Committee regular meeting - review of FY 2027 Budget*)

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- b. Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 5:00 p.m., hybrid (*Jt. Special meeting LUC/Consumer Affairs Committee - review FY 2027 Budget*)

The next regular meeting is Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will take place at a site location to be determined, and the committee will meet with RWA interns to receive an update on a land restoration grant.

At 6:30 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Eitzer and seconded by Mr. Malloy, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

Mark Levine, Chair

(R) – Attended remotely.