

Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
May 13, 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, May 13, 2026, at Route 42, Bethany, Connecticut. Chair Levine presided.

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

Committee Members Absent: P. DeSantis

RPB: R. Harvey, T. Clifford, and C. Havrda

Authority: M. Ricozzi

Management: V. Benni, J. Hill, J. Triana, J. Tracy, C. Cordes, J. Doyle, and J. Guimaraes

Chair Levine called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He 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 April 8, 2026 regular meeting and April 16, 2026 special meeting.

South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (“RWA”) management provided an update on two USDA grants acquired by the RWA in recent years , which included:

1. The LSR Grant, which is funded by the USDA Forest Service, will provide funding of \$180,000 over the next three years and will be used for activities across approximately 7,000 acres surrounding Lake Gaillard. The grant will enable the RWA to manage an additional 5–10 acres annually, contributing toward its long-term goal of maintaining 100 acres of forest habitat for wildlife and invasive species control without the use of chemical treatments.

In addition, the grant also provides funding for seasonal personnel and the procurement of new equipment over a three-year period, thereby enhancing RWA’s capacity for ongoing land stewardship; and

2. The AMP Grant, which is funded by the USDA through the New England Forestry Foundation, will fund \$358,468, will be designated for the improvement of overall forest health and to enhance timber growth. Management practices include thinning and selective removal of trees to encourage the growth of desirable species. The program employs a combination of hand tools and targeted, environmentally responsible herbicide applications, to ensure safe and effective treatment.

Approximately 70% of project costs are funded through the grant, with the remaining portion covered by the RWA.

RWA’s use of grant funding will have a positive impact on regional environmental quality and ecosystem health. They will contribute to maintaining high water quality, support local wildlife and reduce the spread of invasive plant species by employing practical, science-based management approaches and incorporate modern technologies to effectively protect natural resources and provide benefits to the RWA district.

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
April 30	90%	92%	94%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
April 30	2.10	2.76	4.24
Fiscal YTD (6/1/24 –	26.74	36.82	42.54

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

- Killingworth, Abner Lane Rd. (KI 6) – Submitted information to DEEP for them to assess the property and determine their potential interest in it.
- Madison – correspondence with property owner of 14+/- acres.
- Durham – correspondence with property owner of 6+/- acres.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9) – Bids due on May 4.
- Woodbridge, 1029 Johnson Rd. – Reviewed updated plans for the house. Said that they could keep the garage up while working on the house but would have to remove it afterwards to comply with impervious square footage requirement.

Forestry Update

- Met representatives of the Chestnut Foundation to discuss their planting seedlings in and around our timber sales.
- Organized tree planting events at Branford, Seymour, West Haven, and North Branford. Trained and supervised 67 volunteers, who donated 175 labor hours to tree planting efforts.

Recreation

- Held tree ID walk at Maltby Lakes with 12 participants.
- Held Forest Management Tour of the planned slash wall timber sale at Lake Saltonstall with 17 participants.
- Trout stocked at Maltby Lakes. About 550 per lake. One tagged trout from 2025 was caught by an angler.
- Docks were installed at Lake Saltonstall. Boat rentals began on April 25th.
- Investigated unauthorized trails in the Cedar Swamp area of Madison.

April	March
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	2026	2025	2025	2024
Permit Holders	5,037	4,974	4,870	4,842

Special Activity Permits

- CT DEEP (Christopher McDowell, Fisheries Biologist)-To assess the fish community via night boat electrofishing at Lake Saltonstall to assess stocked Walleye population on 4/14/26 – 4/30/26 and all species on 5/14/26 – 6/16/26. (4/14/26-6/14/26).
- Madison Land Conservation Trust-(Charles Shafer)-to hike the route unit MA 4A which is the parcel that includes part of Coan’s Pond, end of Martleshamhead Road, Rockland, (10/31/26).
- Stephen Trumbo, Ph.D. (Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UConn Waterbury) - Continue research on the behavior and ecology of burying beetles.- Off Route 42 (near the Cheshire-Bethany-Prospect line) just east of traffic light at Rt.69-Rt. 42 juncture (5/15/2026-9/30/2026).

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Agricultural agreements – Signed amendment to agreement with tenant on Sperry Rd. in Woodbridge to include blueberries.
 - Madison, 752 Summer Hill Rd. (MA 9) – Murtha contacted the surveyors and set up a meeting of both in May.
 - West Haven, Shingle Hill tanks (WH 7) – Discussed comments to the draft agreement with Murtha. Murtha will convey our comments to West Haven staff.
 - Prospect, 2 Roaring Brook Rd. (PR 6) – Sent letter to abutter about brush debris on our property.
 - Bethany, Hoadley Rd. (BE 17 & 18) – Sent letter to abutter about a well pipe that was on our property and snaked through the road culvert.

- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in North Branford.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	3.7 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	3.7 acres

- Land Use Plan – Public hearing on the Land Use Plan update was held.
- Bethany, Green Haven/Rocky Corner development – Answered questions from Sunwood Development staff about the sanitary easements that went over the property lines and the abandonment of wells.
- New Haven, Sachem St. easement – Sent comments on Yale’s draft easement and met to discuss. Sent emails to Yale and City of New Haven staff about potential discontinuances of Cedar St. and High St.
- Arbor Day events – Coordinated tree plantings in Woodbridge and Orange.
- Killingworth, Kroupa Pond – DEEP sent notification of repairs and monitoring of the dam which is also Rt. 148.
- New Haven, Quinnipiac River crossing – Found files in the vault regarding deeds, easements, and contracts for the 36” watermain crossing of the river. No easements were found on the west side of the river in Fair Haven.

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- Milford, former BHC interconnection – Researched information on a historic interconnection between the NHWC and BHC systems in Devon and Stratford. The interconnection was only supposed to be temporary to help with a supply deficit in Milford during the early 1930's.

There were no other land items to report.

The next regular meeting is Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:25 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy and seconded by Mr. Betkoski, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

Mark Levine, Chair

(R) – Attended remotely.