Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
October 14, 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, October 14, 2026, at Lake Saltonstall, 100 Hosley Avenue, Branford, Connecticut. Chair Levine presided.

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

Committee Members Absent: M. Doyle

RPB: R. Harvey, N. Campbell, J. DiCarlo, C. Havrda, and C. Mancini

Authority: C. LaMarr

Management: M. Freda, V. Benni, E. Calo, Sgt. D. Csech, Sgt. B. Ferrara, J. Hill, and J. Triana

Chair Levine called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

On motion made by Mr. Malloy and seconded by Ms. Young, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2026 meeting, with Mr. Eitzer abstaining.

Sgts. Csech and Ferrara, RWA Police, introduced themselves and provided background on their prior law enforcement experience with the Bridgeport and Hamden Police Departments. They also reported on recent activity and updates occurring on RWA-owned properties.

Committee members welcomed the new officers and expressed appreciation for the updates.

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

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average	Drought Status
September 30	87%	68%	66%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
September 30	7.04	1.66	3.84
Fiscal YTD (6/1/26 –	27.03	6.40	15.30

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

- Killingworth – correspondence with property owner of 35+/- acres.
- Woodbridge, Baldwin easement – Reviewed comments from the Baldwin's. They need a trustee's certificate from the new trust. Title company is reviewing the updated survey.

- Killingworth, Abner Lane Rd. parcels (KI 6) – Spoke to surveyor about progress on the survey and the location of the watershed line.
- Cheshire, Fenn Rd. property – Saw correspondence between DEEP and the Town about the OSWA grant. Let all know that we are willing to subordinate our easement to the state's whenever they are ready.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Pins set at the corners. Marked the new boundaries.

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Forestry Update

- Met with IT to discuss adding maple tappers to RecTrac system, which would allow for maple taps to be paid for, alongside helper permits.
- Monitored the removal of a large brush pile that had been dumped in North Madison (MA4/4A) by a former firewood cutter.
- Printed copies of the new firewood brochure, and distributed brochures to the RWA Communications Team and at two educational events.
- Joined the Connecticut Timber Producers Association and inquired about their steel timber bridge lease-to-own program, which has an 80% match, and reviewed grant details.
- Sowed winter rye along a section of Saltonstall Ridge Road that was recently cleared of invasives.
- Worked with the Connecticut Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation to collect burs from several long-surviving native trees growing at Genesee and Menunketuc.

Recreation

- Botany walk with Native Plant Trust staff at Lake Saltonstall had 15 participants.
- Woody plant ID walk at Maltby Lakes had 20 participants.
- Authorized leader of Sugarloaf volunteer crew to proceed. Forwarded the liability waiver to them for volunteers to sign.
- Cleared trails at Lake Chamberlain.
- Discussed replacement of bog bridges on the Quinnipiac Trail in Bethany with CFPA staff.
- The Water Wagon attended two events in September.

	September		August	
	2026	2025	2026	2025
Permit Holders	4,662	4,892	4,830	4,916

Special Activity Permits

- CT Forest & Park Assoc. (CFPA) (Julia Sonen) – conduct tour to view the firewood plots and harvesting completed by Andrea Urbano and Nick Zito, as well as the land management that RWA has completed in the area, (9/26/26).
- Yale University, School of Medicine (Selmaan Chettih, PhD,) - scientific research field sites for study of black-capped chickadees, maintenance of feeders, observation, and mist-netting for banding and collection, Lake Gaillard, Maltby Lakes and Lake Saltonstall (10/01/2026 – 03/31/2027).

- CTDEEP (Alexander J. Amendola, Forester) - utilize the shoreline of both reservoirs as sample areas for mesic soil-affiliated species of shrubs and trees species (primarily Salix spp., Cephalanthus spp., Ulmus spp., and others and to observe the effects of changing water tables on these species of woody plants. This data will be compared to growth habits of the same species in more static ecosystems with less dynamic hydrological fluctuations. No physical samples will be removed; only measurements taken. Lake Gaillard-North Branford, Lake Hammonasset-Killingworth (9/24/2026 – 10/1/2027).
- Univ. of New Haven Army ROTC Program Coordinator (Robert Clark) - Squad Tactical and Platoon Tactical Training - 1955 Litchfield Turnpike/West River Training Area, Woodbridge (9/25/26 – 9/30/27).

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
    - Agricultural agreements – Tenant bushhogged the small Great Hill Rd. fields and the Saw Mill Hill Rd. field.
    - Madison, Dead Hill Rd. (MA 4 and MA 4A) – All of the firewood and most of the brush was removed by former firewood cutter.
    - Guilford, Route 77 (GU 12) – Police discovered a potential encroachment by the Lake Menunketuc gate.
    - West Haven, Shingle Hill tanks (WH 7) – Agreed to 30-day termination clause. Engineering reviewed the construction requirements.
    - Madison, 702 Summer Hill Rd. (MA 9) – Corresponded with abutter about his surveyor.
    - Madison, 760 Summer Hill Rd. (MA 9) – Checked property lines and emailed abutter about what needs to be addressed. Said we would send an official letter in October with the details.
    - Madison, 96 Princess Dr., (MA 2) – Abutter sent photo showing the encroachments were removed.

- Deer hunt – Three pre-hunt meetings were held. Researchers and wood cutters were notified about the hunt. Some roads were washed out due to heavy rains and will be closed during the season for repairs.
- East Haven, Barberry Rd. fields – Executed new access agreement. Reviewed the letter of agreement with HBM and had meeting to discuss our comments.
- Hamden, Wilbur Cross parkway work (HA 11/NO 6) – DOT staff said they needed to complete geotechnical research before deciding if they needed some rights over our property.
- West Haven, YNHH property – Contacted by YNHH attorney looking to do habitat management at the site within the open space area.
- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in Woodbridge, Prospect, North Branford, and East Haven. Demonstrated the steam weeder and taught about invasive species to the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments and invited participants. Got on the mailing list for the mile-a-minute vine biocontrol from a New Jersey Department of Agriculture beneficial insect rearing laboratory. Continued drill and filling trials with the new and familiar invasive species, including ailanthus, Amur cork tree, autumn olive, and Japanese Angelica tree.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	14 acres

Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	1.5 acres

- Drone flights - Completed drone mission for the West River residuals project in Woodbridge.

Chair Levine reported on upcoming Authority meeting assignments:

- October 22, 2026 – J. Mowat Young
- November 19, 2026 – J. Mowat Young
- December 17, 2026 – G. Malloy
- January 28, 2027 – M. Levine

There were no other land items to report.

The next regular meeting is Wednesday, November 18, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., hybrid.

At 5:58 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy and seconded by Mr. Eitzer, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

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Mark Levine, Chair