

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

Minutes of November 10, 2021 Meeting

A regular meeting of the Land Use Committee of the Representative Policy Board of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District (“RWA”) took place on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, via remote access. Chair Betkoski presided.

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

Authority:	S. Sack
Management:	T. Norris and J. Triana
UCONN:	G. Reynolds
URI:	L. Tewksbury
RPB Staff:	J. Slubowski

Chair Betkoski called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

In remembrance of Veterans Day, Chair Betkoski thanked veterans for their service and asked the committee to honor those who served.

Mr. Betkoski reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Eitzer, and unanimously carried the Committee approved the minutes of its October 13, 2021 meeting.

Ms. Tewksbury, of the Biological Control Lab at the University of Rhode Island (“URI”), provided a presentation on the biocontrol of swallow-worts, which included:

- Description and background information
- Toxicity
- Moth control
- Moth life cycle
- Host specificity
- URI quarantine facility
- Lessons learned

Ms. Reynolds, of Field Implementation at the University of Connecticut, provided a presentation on the biocontrol of swallow-worts on RWA properties, which included:

- Description and implementation
- Background and relationship with the RWA
- Potential release sites at Lake Gaillard
- Data gathering and monitoring
- Defoliation levels
- Next steps

At 6:07 p.m., Mss. Reynolds and Tewksbury withdrew from the meeting.

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

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average	Drought Status
October 31, 2021	87%	65%	66%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
October 2021	6.51	4.22	3.85
Fiscal YTD (6/1/21 – 10/31/21)	28.01	15.65	19.02

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

- Killingworth, 200 Little City Rd. (O'Hare property) – Deed and map filed on the land records. Submitted QFR and forestland 490 application to the assessor.
- Cheshire – Corresponded with property owner of 56+/- acres.
- Madison – Corresponded with property owner of 19+/- acres.
- Madison – Corresponded with property owner of 23+/- acres.
- North Branford, Beech St. and Poms La. properties (NB 4 and NB 4A) – Received all the updated appraisals. Corresponded with NBLCT staff.
- New Haven, Rt. 80 PRV – Corresponded with New Haven BOE staff to re-start discussion about acquisition of an easement for the PRV on school grounds off of Barnes Ave.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) – Received final materials needed from Murtha and sent bid to Purchasing.
- Woodbridge, 1029 Johnson Rd. – Discussed Tarlowski's plans with Preservation Connecticut staff. Corresponded with Tarlowski about PC's suggestions.
- Seymour, 59 Rimmon Rd. – Approved request for work at the house by Kanzler.

Forestry Update

- Guilford – West of Sugar Loaf ash salvage (GU 4) – 40% complete
- Killingworth - East Hammonasset Leaf Screen Thinning, (KI 4) – 25% complete.
- Hamden - Overstory removal and Tornado Salvage, (HA 36) – Not started yet.
- Madison - Nathan's Pond Slash Wall Harvest (MA 6) – 75% complete.
- Seymour - Silvermine Road Slash Wall Harvest (SE 9) – Awarded contract. Not started yet.
- Killingworth - N. Chestnut Hill Patch Cuts, (KI-6) - Marking Complete, Job out to Bid.
 - Hosted a walk with DEEP in North Madison on RWA property for the Master Woodlands Program (35+ people)
 - Hosted an open Land Trust and legislator walk with CAES, DEEP, & UConn in North Madison (40+ people).
 - Met with Dr. Fraser from DEEP to set up acoustic monitoring stations for bats at Lake Gaillard.
 - Met with UConn remote sensing team to discuss projects for FY23.
 - Attended Guilford Inland Wetland Commission meeting for timber harvest 2021-03.

Recreation

- Climate change walk (Nicole) at Lake Saltonstall had 22 people.
- Forestry walk (Alex) with NBLCT at Lake Gaillard had over 50 people.
- Tree/shrub identification walk (Nicole) at Lake Gaillard for the North Branford Recreation Department with 18 people.

- The Water Wagon attended three events this month. It was brought to a fourth event, but upon arrival, recreation staff found out the event was not taking place and we were never notified.
- Boat rentals ended at Lake Saltonstall for the season and the docks were removed.
- 1900 walleye fingerlings were delivered to Lake Saltonstall.
- Lake Gaillard walk-a-thon fundraiser for the Branford Women’s Club was held with 162 walkers participating. They made a donation to the Watershed Fund of over \$800.

	October		September	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
Permit Holders	5,366	5,758	5,684	5,711

Special Activity Permits

- Resources in Search and Rescue, Inc.-(Ms. Celeste Robitaille and designees)-Training of Search and Rescue K9 teams to locate lost or missing individuals, Lake Watrous and Lake Dawson, (10/13/2021-10/3/2022).
- Branford Community Television (BCTV) (Ted Ebberts) Rest stop for annual fundraiser “Tour de Branford” - Sugarloaf Parking Lot (11/7/21)
- Stantec Consulting Services – (Mr. Joelvito G. Villaluz, Structural Engineer)—take photos of completed bridge project for company use, Wepawaug Reservoir, (10/28/21 – 11/4/21).

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Agricultural agreements – Signed license agreement with Galgano for the use of one of the Downs Rd. fields in Hamden. Replied to two other potential farmers.
 - Seymour, Maiden Lane – Aitkenhead indicated that he will be selling his property and will not renew the license agreement for parking.
 - East Haven, 167 Saltonstall Parkway (Route 1) (EH 7) – Provided all documentation to Murtha staff about what damage was done and what remediation was completed. Included invoices.
- Invasive plants – Charter Oak completed clearing fields on Downs Rd., Hamden. Documented or treated invasive populations in East Haven, Branford, Woodbridge, and Prospect. Recorded the final day of data collection from the Prospect stilt grass plots. Attended a zoom meeting with folks from UConn to discuss a drone project that would allow us to use LIDAR to measure regeneration in two locations that we are performing some clear-cut harvests surrounded by slash walls. Periodically checked on spotted lanternfly traps on the Saltonstall Ridge.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	21.75 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	7.1 acres

- Deer hunt – Scouting period occurred. Continued marking boundaries. Hunt started on October 30th.
- East Haven, Beach Ave. watermain – Corresponded with Murtha asking for the draft easement and what remedies would be if we can’t get complete agreement from property owners.

- Hamden, Olin property option – Alerted by HLCT attorney that Olin staff claimed we relinquished the option in 2005. Researched this and did not find any evidence of this. Reported what I found on Chaplik’s emails to them.
- Bethany, Bear Hill Rd. partial discontinuance – Received documents from the town about the partial discontinuance of Bear Hill Rd. to motorized vehicles.

The committee reviewed its proposed 2022 calendar year meeting dates. After discussion, it was the consensus of the committee to adopt the meeting calendar, with revisions.

Chair Betkoski reported on the volunteer to attend the Authority meeting on November 18, 2021.

The next regular meeting of the committee is Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:32 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Eitzer, seconded by Mr. Malloy, and unanimously carried, the committee meeting adjourned.

Peter Betkoski, Chairman