Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
November 18, 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, November 18, 2026, at the RWA, 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut, and via remote access.

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

RPB: R. Harvey, N. Campbell(R), J. DiCarlo(R), C. Havrda(R), S. Iacuone(R), C. Mancini(R), and S. Mongillo(R)

Authority: M. Ricozzi(R)

Management: V. Benni, J. Hill, and J. Triana

Save the Sound: K. Czepiel and J. McCaffery

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

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

Ms. Czepiel, Save the Sound's Land Protection Manager, and Ms. McCaffery, Save the Sound's Relations Manager, provided an update on the Six Lakes Project, which included:

- Project description and vision
- Community partnerships
- RWA mission alignment
- 2025 & 2026 accomplishments
- Volunteer opportunities
- News, timelines, schedules, and testing
- Future outreach, land acquisition, support, remediation, and upcoming meetings with federal and state officials.

Committee members discussed educational opportunities, remediation proposal, areas of concern, zoning, trail relocation, and governmental involvement.

After discussion, Committee members thanked Mss. Czepiel and McCaffery for the update.

On motion made by Mr. Malloy and seconded by Ms. Young, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2026 meeting.

The committee reviewed its proposed 2027 calendar year regular meeting dates. On motion made by Mr. Eitzer and seconded by Mr. Malloy, the Committee voted unanimously to adopt the 2027 regular Committee meeting dates as presented.

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

WATER SUPPLY

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average	Drought Status
October 31	85%	65%	66%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
October 31	2.48	5.23	3.84
Fiscal YTD (6/1/26 –	29.51	11.63	19.14

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

- Hamden – correspondence with property owner of 40+/- acres.
- Durham - correspondence with property owner of 6+/- acres.
- Woodbridge, Baldwin easement – Still waiting for the affidavit from the Trust. Their attorney was away at the end of the month.
- Killingworth, Abner Lane Rd. parcels (KI 6) – Reviewed draft survey.
- Ansonia, Ford St. tank (USFS) property – RWA staff were given a tour of the property from USFS staff. Discussed our interest in the property and maintenance of the grounds.

Rental houses:

- Woodbridge, 1029 Johnson Rd. – Owners re-initiated the building permit process with the town.

Forestry Update

- Collected oak leaf samples for CAES from trees in West River area.
- Met with Yale Forestry School class and spoke about stand dynamics and forestry at a water utility.
- Participated in a chestnut blight sampling workshop sponsored by the CAES as an initial step toward implementing a biocontrol program for long-surviving chestnuts.
- Investigated a misuse of forest products sales agreement and removed a woodcutter from RWA's firewood program.
- Spent multiple days clearing roads of storm debris following a nor'easter, in North Branford, Seymour, and Woodbridge.

Recreation

- Chestnut walk with outside experts was attended by 25 people.
- Woody plant ID walk at Lake Gaillard with 8 participants.
- Hosted a hike sponsored by MLCT along Old Bangs Road and near Shepherd's Trail. About 35 people attended.
- Coordinated volunteer group on the Saltonstall ridge to plant Pennsylvania sedge plugs in areas where invasives have been treated.
- Coordinated with a firewood cutter to cut and remove large trees at Pine Hill by the Hemlock Hollow trail head.
- Cleared trails of downed trees at Chamberlain.

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- Reblazed the blue trails at Chamberlain.
- Docks were removed from Lake Saltonstall and boats were secured.
- Corresponded with the volunteer head of the Sugarloaf trail crew.
- The Water Wagon attended four events.

	October		September	
	2026	2025	2026	2025
Permit Holders	4,604	4,857	4,662	4,892

Special Activity Permits

- CT Forest & Park Associations (Joi Prud'homme) - As a Master Woodland Manager candidate, I would like to do my Capstone/Woodland Survey Project in a portion of the Pine Hills Recreation Area, Pine Hills Trails Woodbridge the Hemlock Hollow Loop (10/8/26 – 10/7/27).
- CTDEEP (Brooks Pitman) – to address the decline of the fisher population in CT, Lake Gaillard area, and properties east of the property, (10/14/26 – 5/1/27).
- New Haven Bird Club (Glen Cummings, Gilles Carter)-to maintain and monitor bluebird nesting boxes, Christmas Tree Fields (North Street and Great Hill Road) North Branford, (3/21/27-8/31/27).

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
    - Agricultural agreements – Met with potential tenant for the Johnson Rd., Woodbridge field.
    - West Haven, Shingle Hill tanks (WH 7) – Waiting for the exhibits from the City. Notified City and Yale that their equipment has to come down while the tank is repainted in FY28.
    - Madison, 702 Summer Hill Rd. (MA 9) – Murtha still trying to contact the surveyor for a meeting, so far without success.
    - Madison, 760 Summer Hill Rd. (MA 9) – Mailed certified letter to abutter about what needs to be removed and what can be covered in a license agreement.

- Deer hunt – The scouting period occurred. The hunt started on 10/30. Six deer were harvested during the last two days in October.
- West Haven, YNHH property – Met with YNHH attorney and consultant about their request to use some of the dedicated open space area for new turtle habitat. YNHH will contact us when the habitat plan is complete.
- West Haven, Burwell Tank property (WH 3) – UI and Comcast contacted other RWA staff about the service that comes up to the tanks and Comcast building. Discussed various options.
- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in Prospect, West Haven, East Haven, and North Branford. Continued drill and filling invasive species, including ailanthus, bittersweet, and autumn olive. Presented, moderated, and gave closing remarks at the biennial Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group symposium, discussing RWA's use of the steam weeder with Japanese stilt grass and black swallow-wort.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	15.5 acres

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Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	4 acres

- Drone flights - Conducted multiple drone missions including West River residuals project, tank climbing class at Rimmon Rd., videos for communications, and experimentation with LiDAR.
- Branford, Hosley Ave. clean up – Staff participated in the clean up of materials dumped along Hosley Ave.
- Boundaries – Checked and remarked boundaries in Durham and Madison.

Chair Levine reported on upcoming Authority meeting assignments:

- November 19, 2026 – M. Levine
- December 17, 2026 – G. Malloy
- January 28, 2027 – M. Levine

The Committee discussed special topics for future agendas. Mr. Triana will confer with Chair Levine, and the matter will return to the Committee next month for further discussion. Members were encouraged to provide future topics of interest for consideration.

The next regular meeting is Wednesday, December 9, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., via hybrid.

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

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Mark Levine, Chair

(R) = Attended remotely.

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