

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

Minutes of December 8, 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, December 8, 2021, via remote access. Chair Betkoski presided.

Present: Committee Members: P. Betkoski, P. DeSantis, B. Eitzer, R. Harvey, M. Horbal, M. Levine, J. Oslander, and J. Mowat Young
 Authority: C. LaMarr
 Management: T. Norris, S. Lakshminarayanan, J. Triana, N. Smith
 RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Chair Betkoski called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Mr. Betkoski reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

Ms. Smith, the RWA’s Natural Resources Analyst, provided the 2021 Deer Hunt summary, which included:

- Deer density
- Hunting locations
- 2021 hunting season overview/permits
- Harvest totals
- Research, reporting, and safety

Members discussed area growth, deer population, and safety.

At 5:52 p.m., Ms. Smith 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
November 30, 2021	85%	67%	66%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
November 2021	1.65	5.20	3.96
Fiscal YTD (6/1/21 – 11/30/21)	29.58	20.85	22.99

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

- 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 Haven – Corresponded with property owner of 14+/- acres.
- North Branford, Beech St. and Poms La. properties (NB 4 and NB 4A) – Corresponded with NBLCT staff about the steps forward.

- Branford, Brushy Plain Rd. property (BR 7) – Saw correspondence between Larry and the First Selectman about these acres. Emailed the First Selectman’s office to discuss further.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) – Bid published. Three pre-bid meetings held. Corresponded with WPCA and QVHD about the waste system at the property. Two addenda published for the bid.
- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Emailed town staff to determine the status of the condemnation.
- Woodbridge, 1029 Johnson Rd. – Continued correspondence with the Tarlowski’s about their plans for the house.
- Woodbridge, 2040 Litchfield Tpk. – Bayram’s placed three piles of material over the property line and pushed it down the bank. Ordered them to remove everything from our property. Told them that I would not accept any bid from them for 95 Ives St. if any material was left over the property line.

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. **Looking to grant extension.**
- Madison - Nathan’s Pond Slash Wall Harvest (MA 6) – **85% complete.**
- Seymour - Silvermine Road Slash Wall Harvest (SE 9) – Awarded contract. **Expected to start in December.**
- Killingworth - N. Chestnut Hill Patch Cuts, (KI-6) - Marking Complete, Job out to Bid.
 - Alex Amendola announced he will be leaving in December after taking a job with DEEP Forestry.
 - Marked timber for future sale at Lake Menunketuc.
 - Showed timber harvest 2021-02 to potential bidders and awarded the harvest to PermaTreat Corporation.
 - Attended/Co-Hosted Forestry Career Development Event at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station.
 - Ordered plants for re-forestation efforts for the spring.

Recreation

- Bird walk at Lake Hammonasset with the New Haven Bird Club has 7 people.
- Updated online forms to include the “Veterans” category.
- Gave tour of recreation facilities to the two new Customer Service Reps.
- Corresponded with DEEP staff about new fishing regulations.
- Water Wagon attended one event.
- Process started to hire new people for next year’s fishing season.

	November		October	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
Permit Holders	5,578	5,879	5,366	5,758

Special Activity Permits

- (none in November)

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Agricultural agreements – Met potential farmer at the southern field off of Downs Rd. The Page’s indicated that they will not be using the Parish Farm Rd. fields anymore, but would renew the agreements for the Barberrry Rd. fields that expire soon. Sent them drafts to review.
 - East Haven, 167 Saltonstall Parkway (Route 1) (EH 7) – Corresponded with Murtha staff about progress.
 - Cheshire, 264 Harrison Rd. (CH 2) – Sent letter to abutter about fence, lawn, and cut brush over the line. Previous owners had license agreement, but the property changed hands a couple years ago. Talked to abutter and will send them a draft license agreement.

- Invasive plants – Documented or treated invasive populations in Hamden, East Haven, Branford, and North Branford. Met with Gerda Magana from the CAES to discuss the invasive insect collection and her special permit. Watched Nancy Marek from UConn present her findings on distinguishing Japanese barberry and multiflora rose from images taken from an off-the-shelf drone.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	11 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	4 acres

- Deer hunt – Hunt ended on Nov. 30th. Total deer harvested was 34. Breakdown of harvest is shown in the table below. NRA made regular trips to the field to meet check station volunteers and oversee the hunt areas. A hunter fell from his stand and was found hanging by his harness by another hunter. Trespassers were observed multiple times and the gates at Prospect and Beech St. were vandalized.

2021 Archery Deer Hunt Preliminary Numbers			
Property	Doe Harvested	Buck Harvested	Total Deer
North Branford/Gaillard	6	20	26
Bethany	2	2	4
Prospect	1	2	3
Ansonia/Seymour	0	1	1
Totals	9	25	34

- East Haven, Beach Ave. water main – Ted and Tom came up with an alternate route for the water main coming from Morgan Ave. and Stanton Rd. Got draft easement from Murtha. Told Juliano to proceed with the draft survey.
- Hamden, Olin property option – Forwarded the Chaplik’s 2005 emails to the HLCT attorney.
- Christmas tree donation – Donated oversized Christmas tree to New Haven Parks Dept. for use at Sea Wall Park.
- Responded to two abutters of Rockland Rd. (Guilford) and County Rd. (Madison) about problems with the locks on the gate we installed.

On motion made by Mr. Eitzer, seconded by Mr. Levine, and unanimously carried the Committee approved the minutes of its November 10, 2021 meeting.

Chair Betkoski reported on the volunteer to attend the Authority meeting on December 16, 2021.

The next regular meeting of the committee is Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Betkoski acknowledged Mr. Norris, the RWA's Vice President of Asset Management, and stated that it would be his last meeting. Committee members and management thanked Mr. Norris for his contribution to the Committee.

Mr. Bingaman, the RWA's President and Chief Executive Officer, stated that Mr. Norris and Mr. Triana have been working to create a land trust council, sponsored by the RWA. The Committee will be receiving a brief on the status of the partnership at a future meeting.

At 6:20 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Levine, seconded by Mr. Eitzer, and unanimously carried, the committee meeting adjourned.

Peter Betkoski, Chairman