

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

Minutes of December 14, 2022 Meeting

The regular meeting of the Land Use Committee of the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District (“RWA”) took place on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, via remote access. Chair Betkoski presided.

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

RPB: N. Campbell, C. Havrda, and S. Mongillo

Authority: C. LaMarr

Management: L. Bingaman, J. Hill, S. Lakshminarayanan, J. Triana, and S. Vitko

Staff: J. Slubowski

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

On motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Horbal, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the minutes of its November 9, 2022 meeting.

Mr. Vitko, the RWA’s Environmental Planning Manager, provided an overview of the DEEP Stream Flow Regulations and Implementation and RWA’s Reservoir Safe Yield Model, which included:

- Overview of Safe Yield
- Current and new regulations
- Release sites
- Future impact, implementation, and supply

Committee members discussed improvements and CT DEEP selection of Safe Yield sites.

At 5:48 p.m., Mr. Bingaman withdrew from the meeting.

The special meeting date for the FY 2024 budget review was set for Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

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
November 30, 2022	75%	85%	66%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
November 2022	3.39	1.65	3.94
Fiscal YTD (6/1/22 –	19.31	29.58	23.01

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

- Prospect – Corresponded with property owner of 40+/- acres.
- North Branford, Beech St. and Poms La. properties (NB 4) – Contacted Murtha about the status of the title report. Initial findings were that the parcels were merged administratively and could be separated in the same manner.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Emails have been sent to assistant town attorney regarding the status of the condemnation and awaiting response.

Forestry Update

- Killingworth - East Hammonasset Leaf Screen Thinning, (KI 4) – 30% complete.
- Hamden - Overstory removal and Tornado Salvage, (HA 36) – Not started yet. Start pushed back to winter.
- Madison - Nathan's Pond Slash Wall Harvest (MA 6) – **100% complete.**
- Killingworth - N. Chestnut Hill Patch Cuts, (KI 6) – Not started yet. Winter start expected.
 - Compiled a grant request for the USFS Landscape Scale Restoration funding opportunity, and coordinated with a team of collaborators toward submitting a proposal for \$195K for seasonal invasive species control interns and related work and equipment.
 - Communicated evidence of deer inside the Nathan's Pond slash wall among RWA's partners, including a professional hunter, who started hunting the area. Discussed strategies and coordinated hunting activities with research activities.
 - Suspended a woodcutter involved with a property dispute and potential trespassing issue associated with the woodcutter's access to his lot in the Genesee Tract. Fielded numerous phone calls from the woodcutter associated with this action, and met the permittee at this property to discuss and inspect steps toward reinstatement.
 - Met with owner of Extreme Landscaping at the Gaillard tree farm to harvest an overgrown evergreen tree for RWA's donation to the Morris Cove Christmas display at the Pardee Seawall.
 - Met and worked with a group of Seymour volunteers to harvest boughs of evergreen from BUI's former tree farm at the entrance to the Pine Hill trail system.
 - Arranged for the removal of a skidder from the Peat Swamp Property.

Recreation

- Worked with Environmental Planning staff to acquire DPH permits for the New England Trail in Guilford.
- Latest newsletter was published and delivered.
- Hike at Big Gulph had one participant.
- Reblazed all trails at Big Gulph.
- Cleared downed trees across trails at Lake Chamberlain, Big Gulph and Sugarloaf.

	November		October	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
Permit Holders	4,913	5,578	4,968	5,366

Special Activity Permits

- Yale University School of the Environment- (Dr. Craig R. Brodersen) - Field trips in field botany and forestry. - North Madison Cedar Swamp off of Rt. 80, (11/2/2022-6/30/2023)
- CT Dept. of Energy & Envir.Protection Wildlife Biologist (Dr. Devaughn Fraser) - acoustic monitoring of bats to determine species occupancy of hibernacula and species presence/bat

- activity in Fall, Spring, and Summer to help inform tree management activities, Lake Gaillard (11/2/2022-11/2/2023)
- McLaren Engineering Group (Craig Plate) – Perform a routine and underwater inspection at Waite Street Bridge over Lake Whitney; contracted by CTDOT to perform the inspection; (11/28/2022).
 - Resources in Search and Rescue, Inc.-(Ms. Celeste Robitaille and designees)- Training of Search and Rescue K9 teams to locate lost or missing individuals, RT 42 Swamp southeast of RT 42 Bethany; (11/27/22-11/27/23)
 - 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, (11/27/22-11/27/23).

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Agricultural agreements – All fields on the western side were mowed.
 - Trespassing – Recorded instances of trespassing including dirt bikes, ATV's, hikers with dogs, mountain bikers and hikers in unpermitted areas, picnic table at Maltby Lakes was vandalized, fort in Woodbridge, dumped tires at Skiff St., and the ice house at Gaillard was broken into.
- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in Guilford and North Branford.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	112.25 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	0.2 acres

- Deer hunt – The hunt ended on Nov. 30th. There were a total of 180 hunters – 129 in North Branford, 23 in Bethany, 20 in Prospect and 8 in Ansonia/Seymour. The total number of deer harvested was 24. There were 4 does and 20 bucks harvested. The breakdown of where deer were harvested by property are as follows:
 - North Branford: 17 deer - 14 bucks, 3 does
 - Bethany: 5 deer – 5 bucks
 - Prospect: 2 deer - 1 buck, 1 doe
 - Ansonia/Seymour: 0 deerPost-hunt surveys were mailed out. Deadline to return them is in January.
- East Haven, Beach Ave. watermain – Told by town staff that a public hearing on the easement would take place on Dec. 6th. Updated the easement agreement and the survey for the town.
- Hamden, Mather St. CITGO station – Alerted by the public that a contractor at the CITGO station was dumping brush over the fence at Lake Whitney. Environmental Planning staff investigated.
- Bethany, Simon dam – Contacted by Simon's dam contractor that we were flooding his work site with Lake Bethany water. Turned out to be a leaf-dam on the lip of the spillway had broken and released the water.
- Madison, TNC easement over MA 12 – Contacted by TNC that they would not perform a physical check of the property this year.
- Easements – Looked up information for Operation staff regarding our interests in real estate around the Racebrook PRV in Orange and South Sleeping Giant Wellfield in Hamden.
- Pollinator garden, 90 Sargent Dr. – Staff assisted with maintaining the pollinator garden and planted trees.

- Drone flights – ISMT performed a drone flights on behalf of Capital Planning at Woodbridge tank and at the West River DAF project.

Due to a conflict in schedule it was determined that Mr. Harvey would provide the Land Use Committee report at the Representative Policy Board meeting on Thursday, December 15, 2022.

Chair Betkoski reviewed committee member attendance at the next Authority meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:11 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Levine, seconded by Mr. Harvey, and unanimously carried, the committee meeting adjourned.

Peter Betkoski, Chairman