

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

**Minutes of October 12, 2022 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, October 12, 2022, at Lake Saltonstall, 100 Hosley Avenue, Branford, Connecticut. Chair Betkoski presided.

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

**RPB:** M. Ricozzi and T. Clifford

**Authority:** D. Borowy

**Management:** L. Bingaman, J. Hill, S. Lakshminarayanan, J. Triana, Sgt. Ruggiero, and D. Verdisco

**Staff:** J. Slubowski

Chair Betkoski called the meeting to order at 4:55 p.m. He 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 September 14, 2022 meeting.

At 4:58 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Eitzer, seconded by Mr. Oslander, and upon unanimous consent, the committee voted to recess the regular meeting to convene in executive session, pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200(6)(C), to receive a briefing and discuss security strategies and implementation. Present in executive session were committee members, Messrs. Borowy, Clifford, Hill, Lakshminarayanan, Ricozzi, Ruggiero and Triana, and Mss. Slubowski, Verdisco and Young.

At 5:14 p.m., Mr. Ricozzi withdrew from the meeting.

At 5:16 p.m., the committee meeting reconvened. No votes were taken in, or as a result of, executive session.

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)

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>	<b>Historical Average</b>	<b>Drought Status</b>
September 30, 2022	72%	89%	68%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>	<b>Historical Average</b>
September 2022	7.02	7.99	3.83
Fiscal YTD (6/1/22 –	13.33	21.50	15.21

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

- Cheshire – Corresponded with property owner of 50+/- acres.
- Prospect – Corresponded with property owner of 40+/- acres.

- North Branford, Beech St. and Poms La. properties (NB 4) – Met with Murtha staff to discuss subdivision plans for the two parcels and the “island” parcel. Executed the MOU with NBLCT for selling them the two parcels.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – The Asst. Town Attorney called and said that an appraiser was hired for the condemnation. Their work would not be done until October. Engineering has contacted demolition contractors to get an estimate associated with demolition of the property.
- Orange, 501 Derby Ave. – Contacted owner about a newly constructed kennel that was not approved by us.

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 fall or winter.
- Madison - Nathan’s Pond Slash Wall Harvest (MA 6) – 95% complete.
- Killingworth - N. Chestnut Hill Patch Cuts, (KI 6) – Not started yet. Winter start expected.
  - Monitored the interior of the Nathan’s Pond slash wall harvests for signs of deer intrusion on multiple occasions. Communicated deer evidence to RWA’s partners, and submitted a work order to Operations Group to fix and reinforce gate area. ISMT performed a drone flight to look for possible deer within the slash wall area.
  - Documented the large number of ailanthus seedlings at the Seymour slash wall.
  - Marked timber for GU12/12A silvicultural treatments near the Menunketuc reservoir, laid out more harvest boundary, and worked with Operations to install a culvert at the proposed intermittent watercourse crossing.
  - Drafted, edited and submitted a preliminary Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) grant application to DEEP Forestry to generate a support letter from the State Forester.
  - Investigated white pine decline issues around Maltby Lake reservoirs.

Recreation

- Carrion beetle walk/talk in Bethany and kid’s archery event in North Branford occurred on Sept. 3rd, but only had a total of 6 participants due to the newsletter coming out too late.
- Water Wagon attended the New Haven Labor Day Road Race.
- NBLCT had ribbon cutting for the trail that goes onto our property from the Harrison Preserve.
- Bethany Horsemen addressed the issue of horses on the Chamberlain dam with the offending barn owner. Also said they would overpaint various purple blazes that were incorrectly painted on various trails.
- Anthony Pepe accepted a position in Treatment and will move to that department in October.
- CFPA indicated that they would like to get approval for the errant trail location for the New England Trail in Guilford. Contacted Beth Evans to start work on the preliminary assessment.
- Cleared downed trees across trails at Chamberlain and Hammonasset.

	September		August	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
Permit Holders	5,026	5,684	5,102	5,926

Special Activity Permits

- U. S. Geological Survey (Kaitlin Laabs) - Take water level measurement of a monitoring well located on SCCRWA property-Middletown Avenue, North Branford (One short visit between (9/7/2022 to 10/7/2022)
- Wesleyan University – (Dr. Phillip G. Resor) - Project is for geologic mapping of bedrock outcroppings, mapping, and describing those outcroppings and collecting fist sized samples for laboratory analysis land within USGS 7.5 minute Durham quadrangle (7/21/2021 – 5/31/2022)
- Univ.of New Haven Army ROTC Program Coordinator (Robert Clark) - Squad Tactical and Platoon Tactical Training - 1955 Litchfield Turnpike/West River Training Area, Woodbridge (9/27/22 – 9/27/23).

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
  - East Haven, 9 Pardee Place (EH 6) – Executed the license agreement with Brennan.
  - Cheshire, South Cheshire Wellfield (CH 4) – Tracked down automatic payment from Southwick Condos for their license agreement.
  - Seymour, Roosevelt Dr. (SE 3) – Communicated with licensee about trees that Eversource was removing and additional items that were placed over the property line.
  - Trespassing – Recorded instances of trespassing including dog walkers, hikers, a tree stand, dirt bikes, ATV's, and cut lock at Maltby Lakes.

At 5:29 p.m., Ms. Mowat Young entered the meeting.

- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in North Branford and Bethany. Worked on Landscape Scale Restoration grant application that would focus on invasive plant management, but include other topics such as bat habitat. Performed a drone flight at Furnace Pond to document the water level and water chestnut mortality due to drought.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	143 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	5 acres

- Deer hunt – Held three pre-hunt meetings. There will be 182 participants in the 2022 archery hunt (131- Gaillard, 23-Bethany, 20-Prospect, and 8-Ansonia/Seymour). Sent letters to wood cutters in hunt areas.
- Easements – Checked on the status of easements at NW Cheshire PS, Cheshire; Spruce Bank Rd., Hamden; Tenn Gas Company pipeline, Bethany; Raynham St. PS, New Haven; Mill Plain Rd., Branford.
- WPCAG Watershed Lands Workgroup – REM gave presentation about our watershed acquisition and protection efforts.
- Cell phone towers – Cell phone towers –
  - East Haven, Saltonstall Ridge (EH 2) – East Haven assessor staff verified that the card for the tower will not be in our name for the 2022GL. Sprint had contractor remove their equipment, but they also removed and damaged the town's equipment. EH PD and FD are aware of the situation.
- Regional Conservation Partnership – Discussed reconvening the steering committee and the whole RCP with Bryan Pines who attended a RCP workshop.
- ISMT performed a drone flight at the Derby tank site documenting construction progress.

- Chamberlain piezometers – Met with special permittee about moving bluebird boxes next to the piezometers to avoid hitting them while mowing.

Committee members discussed the RWA recreation program for inner city youths and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Connecticut Aquatic Resources Education program.

Mr. Bingaman, the RWA's President and Chief Executive Officer, thanked the committee and board members for the support of the RWA's security recommendations and continued partnership.

Chair Betkoski reviewed committee member attendance at the upcoming Authority meeting on Thursday, October 27, 2022.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

At 5:40 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Eitzer, and unanimously carried, the committee meeting adjourned.

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Peter Betkoski, Chairman