

**Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
90 Sargent Drive, New Haven
Minutes of February 13, 2019 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, February 13, 2019 at 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut. Chair Levine presided.

Present: Committee Members: R. Harvey, J. Krasko, M. Levine, G. Malloy, and J. Oslander
 Authority: K. Curseaden
 RWA Management: L. Discepolo, T. Norris, J. Tracey, and J. Triana

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

1. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.
2. The Committee approved the minutes of its January 9, 2019 meeting, as presented.
3. Mr. Tracey, RWA’s Invasive Species Management Technician, provided an invasive species update, which included an informative presentation on the RWA’s progress and mapping areas of invasive species on RWA properties.
4. Update on *The Land We Need for the Water We Use Program* – J. Triana reported:

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average	Drought Status
Jan 31, 2019	97	79	77	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
Jan 31, 2019	4.87	4.14	3.61
Fiscal YTD (6/1/18 – 1/31/19)	43.29	27.10	30.69

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

- Killingworth - Corresponded with property owner of 300+/- acres.
- Hamden – Signed LOI with DePodesta for 14+/- acres
- Hamden – Signed LOI for Hendrickson for 7 +/- acres

Rental houses:

- Bethany, 184 Downs Rd (BE 22) – Bid posted online.
- Woodbridge, 2040 Litchfield Tpk. – Met with owners and went over their requests. Sent email with our answers to their questions.
- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) – Met with Hamden officials to discuss disposing of the house and lot. Agreed that we would execute an amendment to the agreement.
- Prospect Barn, Tress Rd. (PR 6) – Barn collapsed during winter storm.

Forestry Update

- Bethany - West of Old Mill Road (BE 3) – 70% complete
- Guilford – West of Sugar Loaf ash salvage (GU 4) – 20% complete
- Madison – Hammonasset Peninsula (MA 9) – 75% complete

- Madison – West side of Hammonasset (MA 9) – Not started yet
- North Branford - Beech Street Softwood (NB 4) – 20% complete
- **Madison - Foster Hole/Cedar Swamp South (MA 2) - 40% complete**
- **Madison - Waterman's Cabin Oak Salvage, (MA 2) – 10% complete**
- **Hamden - Downs Road Tornado Salvage, (HA 28/29) – 60% complete**
- **Killingworth - North Chestnut Hill Oak Salvage, (KI 4) – 70% complete**
- Killingworth - East Hammonasset Leaf Screen Thinning, (KI 4) - Contract out to bid
- Hamden - Overstory removal and Tornado Salvage, (HA 36) – Not started yet
- **Cheshire - North Cheshire Well Field Larch/Pine Thinning, (CH 1) – Contract awarded**
 - Inventoried land unit BE 18 and created silviculture plan.
 - Attended student intern meeting.
 - Showed potential contractors the softwood thinning in North Cheshire wellfield.

Recreation Update

Active permits (month's end) – 3857

- Held walk at ABC property with Hamden Land Trust with 30 people.
- Met with CFPA to discuss relocation of Quinnipiac Trail in Prospect.
- Solicitation for new recreation staff was published.

Special Activity Permits

- UConn, Dept of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (Dr. Mark Urban) – Research on pond amphibians - Totoket mountain in Northford; ridge north of Lake Gaillard; 60 ponds distributed to the west and east of Big Gulph Brook (3/1/2019 - 3/1/2020)
- East Haven Fire Department (Deputy Chief P. J. Norwood) - Cold water rescue training - Lake Saltonstall (1/13/2019)
- CT Agricultural Experiment Station (Dr. Jeff Ward, et al) - General forestry and wildlife research, tick/Lyme Disease studies - Lake Gaillard, North Madison, Prospect (02/1/2019 - 1/31/2020)
- Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies (Prof. Mark Ashton) - Education/field trips – North Madison (E of Rt 79); N/E Lake Gaillard; Hamden/Bethany – S of Downs Road, Hamden cul-de-sac (2/1/2019 - 5/31/2019)
- Nicholas G. McDonald (Curatorial Affiliate Yale Peabody Museum, Author, Lecturer) – Geology research - Lake Saltonstall and Lake Gaillard (02/01/2019 – 02/01/2020)
- CT Forest & Park Association (Clare Cain) - Explore routes for a possible extension of the Quinnipiac Trail to property owned by the Prospect Land Trust. - Prospect near end of Quinnipiac Trail (south of Cornwall Ave.) (2/1/2019 – 8/31/2019)

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements
 - Vassel driveway, Durham (DU 2) – Attorney withdrew the inland wetlands application.
 - High Rock Tank, Hamden (HA 22) – Received check and executed agreement with Town.
 - Madison, Connery (MA 2) – Learned that he passed away. Spoke to his widow.
 - Killingworth, Connelly (KI 4) – Sent letter to abutter with equipment and dog fence over the property line.
 - Woodbridge, Morris Rd. access for Eversource (WO 5) – Corresponded with Eversource staff and contractors about accessing the ROW through the gate and road off of Morris Rd.
 - Agricultural fields – Responded to email from potential farmer to use Prospect fields.

- Deer hunt – Continued to receive post-hunt surveys. Started taking measurements of the regeneration plots.
- Invasive plants – Joshua Tracy check several places for invasives including Webb Cover basin, timber sale locations, and updated GIS data. Contacted researchers working on invasives. Solicited quotes for water chestnut removal at Furnace Pond.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	185 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac)	0 acres

- 186 Borrmann Rd., East Haven – Met with neighbor to check out drainage from Saltonstall Ridge and met with town staff about catch basins that take the water to the storm sewer system.
- Audubon Connecticut – Met with their staff to talk about their assistance at various sites.
- Madison Land Trust – Sent letter of support to MLCT for their DEEP open space application for the parcel adjacent to the Cedar Swamp.
- North Branford POCD – Discussed our plans in North Branford with their town staff for use in updating their Plan of Conservation and Development.

At 6:00 p.m., Chair Levine withdrew from the meeting and Mr. Harvey took over the meeting as acting chair.

5. Ms. Discepolo, RWA’s Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, provided an update on the Authority’s decision to postpone the Customer Information System (“CIS”) Request for Proposal (“RFP”), which was scheduled for 2019. She reported that the RWA, after a thorough review of capital requirements, a reassessment of organizational readiness, and technology needs, decided to cancel the RFP process. RWA also determined that it would be beneficial to hire a Chief Technology Officer before beginning the CIS RFP process. Currently, management is developing the FY 2020 Budget, which will include a budget for this position. Ms. Discepolo reported that proper upgrades for the current system are in place during the interim.
6. There were no other land items to report.
7. The next regular meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.
8. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Mark Levine, Chairman

Robert E. Harvey, Jr., Acting Chairman