

**Representative Policy Board  
Land Use Committee  
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District  
499 Derby Avenue, Orange  
Minutes of May 8, 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, May 9, 2019 at Wepawaug, 499 Derby Avenue, Orange, Connecticut. Chair Levine presided.

Present: Committee Members: P. Betkoski, R. Harvey, M. Levine, J. Oslander and G. Malloy  
 Authority: S. Sack  
 RWA Management: R. Gavrilovic, T. Norris and C. Savoy

Chair Levine called the meeting to order at 4:41 p.m.

1. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.
2. The Committee approved the minutes of its April 10, 2019 and its April 24, 2019 meetings, as presented.
3. Ms. Gavrilovic, RWA’s Director of Capital Planning and Delivery, and Mr. Savoy, RWA’s Project Engineer, provided a tour of the Wepawaug property located at 499 Derby Avenue in Orange. They also discussed the progress and process of the refurbishing of the dam located at the property.



4. Update on *The Land We Need for the Water We Use Program* – Mr. Norris reported:

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average	Drought Status
April 30, 2019	99	96	94	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
April 2019	7.41	6.55	4.26
Fiscal YTD (6/1/18 – 4/30/19)	56.80	43.04	42.62

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

- Hamden – DePodesta property – Discovered additional drainage pipe on the property. Updated the survey. Reviewed draft of deed.
- Hamden – Hendrickson - Set closing for June 11. Alerted DEEP staff so that they can prepare the lien release.

- Killingworth - Corresponded with property owner of 300+/- acres.
- Cheshire - Corresponded with property owner of 40+/- acres.
- Hamden - Corresponded with property owner of 12+/- acres.
- Hamden – discussed town’s acquisition of the Beers property with HLCT staff.
- Guilford – discussed acquisition of property of 120+/- acres with GLCT staff.

#### Rental houses:

- Bethany, 184 Downs Rd. – Held closing and house was sold to Tuzcu. Met with them at the house to discuss next steps.
- Seymour, 59 Rimmon Rd. (SE 11) – Tenants informed us that they would not be exercising the option to buy the house.
- Guilford, 1115 Great Hill Rd. – Contacted owner about progress.
- Orange, 499 Derby Ave. – Contacted owner about progress.
- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) and 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Environmental and survey work started for the disposition applications.
- Prospect barn (PR 6) – Remaining parts of the barn removed.

#### 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) – 85% complete
  - **North Branford - Beech Street Softwood (NB 4) – 50% complete**
  - **Madison - Waterman’s Cabin Oak Salvage, (MA 2) – 65% complete**
  - Hamden - Downs Road Tornado Salvage, (HA 28/29) – 85% complete. Area expanded to include other nearby locations with tornado damage.
  - Killingworth - East Hammonasset Leaf Screen Thinning, (KI 4) - Contract not yet awarded.
  - Hamden - Overstory removal and Tornado Salvage, (HA 36) – Not started yet
  - Cheshire - North Cheshire Well Field Larch/Pine Thinning, (CH 1) – Not yet started.
- Checked on all active sales at least twice per week: fluctuating weather (above and below freezing) and precipitation results in potentially volatile conditions. This requires more frequent and thorough inspections to ensure our property is protected against damage.
  - Two harvests by Lake Bethany were put out to bid.

#### Recreation

- Recreation permit holders – 4,045
- Opening day of fishing season occurred on April 13.
- Stocked trout at Maltby Lakes
- Held walk at Big Gulph with Mark Urban of UConn for vernal pools. Eight people attended.
- Held walk at Chamberlain with Scott Davies of Quinnipiac for bluebird conservation. Three people attended.
- Star gazing event was cancelled due to weather.
- Held annual recreation permit holder meeting. Awards distributed for photo contest.
- Walked potential trails at Gaillard with North Branford Land Trust staff.
- Discussed potential of additional mountain biking trails at Lake Saltonstall with Branford Open Space Commission staff.

### Special Activity Permits

- Shoreline Outdoor Education Center and Guilford School System (Karen S. Christensen, Ph.D., Director)-Provide geology instruction and collect rock samples from the area-Genesee Tunnel spoils area, Race Hill Road in Madison (05/01/19-12/31/19)
- U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (Raymond Putnam)-walk the unnamed tributary to Farm River, hand excavate 20-inch test pits, fill after recording data. Take photos of abutting property. (Working on gaining access to abutting property; investigating possible wetland violations), 1744 and 1778 Middletown Avenue, North Branford, (04/04/19-06/30/19)
- Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (Dr. Chris T. Maier, Agricultural Scientist)-Conduct research on insects, particularly longhorned beetles (continuation of 2018 projects), and to survey for abnormal emergencies of periodical cicadas, Near Lake Gaillard and Totoket Mountain complex (North Branford); near Beaver Head Road, especially Beaver Head Swamp (Guilford); forest off Dogburn Road (Orange); Magicicada Preserve (Hamden); and along Hosley Avenue (Branford), (04/22/19-11/30/19)
- Quinnipiac University (Professor Scott Davies)-Study bird nest boxes and record bird nesting activity and success, band the adults and chicks, and collect tissue samples for analysis during breeding season, Lake Chamberlain Recreation Area, the small mown field with lots of small cedars on the east side of Sperry Road just south of Lake Chamberlain where Patrick Leahy already has some boxes, Lake Watrous, and Lake Dawson, (04/20/19-12/31/19)

### Other items

- Encroachments/agreements
  - Agricultural fields – Met with potential farmer for Sperry Rd. field (WO 5).
  - Cheshire, Southwick Condos (CH 4) – Corresponded with staff about spraying for ticks on our property. Pesticide was rejected, but cedar-based repellent was approved.
  - Hamden, Broken Arrow Christmas trees (HA 36) – Extended agreement for Christmas trees at Crosby parcel for another 10 years.
  - North Branford, former Swajchuk property (NB 17) – Issued letters to three abutters where there were encroachments with license agreements, but the properties changed hands. Notified them that the encroachments had to either have a license agreement or get removed.
  - Bethany, Tennessee Gas ROW – Working with gas company to allow access to extra area adjacent to their easement to do repairs south of Hatfield Hill Rd. Sent license agreement to them to execute.
- Durham, Vassel driveway – Met town engineer to walk the easement. Received opinion letter from town attorney on various matters that have been brought up. Most opinions favored Vassel. Attended inland wetland commission meeting. Emailed DPH staff about the matter and progress.
- East Haven, Eversource ROW (EH 12) – Coordinated with Eversource staff to replace poles in the ROW and construct gates/barriers.
- Bethany, Brooks Rd. Eversource pole (BE 22) – Contacted Eversource staff about moving a pole and guy wire that was placed in a break in a stonewall where a firewood cutter accesses our property.
- Invasive plants – Waiting for work at Furnace Pond to start since road is too wet. Received inland wetland approval for the work on the road at Furnace Pond. Pulled Devils Walking Stick on Beech St. in the timber sale. Planned removal of two patches of invasives at Lake Gaillard. Japanese Knotweed plants were found and removed from Beech St. timber harvest.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	53.75
Invasive Species Treated (ac)	1.3

5. There were no other land items to report.
6. The next regular meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.
7. The meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

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Mark Levine, Chairman