

**Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
Furnace Pond
100 Hosley Avenue, Branford
Minutes of July 10, 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, July 10, 2019 at Furnace Pond, 100 Hosley Avenue, Branford, Connecticut. Chair Levine presided.

Present: Committee Members: P. Betkoski, B. Eitzer, R. Harvey, M. Levine, J. Oslander, and Jamie Mowat Young
Authority: S. Sack
RWA Management: W. Henley, T. Norris, J. Tracy 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 June 12, 2019 meeting, as presented.
3. Mr. Henley, RWA’s Source Water Quality Analyst, Mr. Norris, RWA’s Vice President – Asset Management, Mr. Tracy, RWA’s Invasive Species Management Technician, and Mr. Triana, RWA’s Real Estate Manager, provided an informative discussion on RWA’s Furnace Pond Harvesting. Members surveyed the water chestnut area. Work is expected to begin at the end of the month. Currently, the RWA is clearing land to provide access for work vehicles to reach the site to begin harvesting.
4. On a motion made by Mr. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Betkoski, and unanimously carried, the committee elected Mr. Levine to serve as Committee Chairman for 2019-2020.
5. Update on *The Land We Need for the Water We Use Program* – Mr. Triana reported:

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average	Drought Status
June 30, 2019	99	93	88	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
June 2019	4.56	4.29	3.76
Fiscal YTD (6/1/19 – 6/30/19)	4.56	4.29	3.76

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

- Hamden – DePodesta property – Closed on June 12.
- Hamden – Hendrickson – Closed on June 11. DEEP filed release of lien simultaneously with recording of deed.
- Cheshire - Corresponded with property owner of 40+/- acres.

Rental houses:

- Bethany, 184 Downs Rd. – Discussed the water service at the house with the new owners and RWA staff.

- Seymour, 59 Rimmon Rd. (SE 11) – Cleaned house and property of remaining belongings. Pumped out septic system. Decided to postpone bid until the house was cleaned.
- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) and 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Started work on zone change application for Skiff St. Approved updated survey map for Ives St.

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) – 95% 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) – Will start in the winter.**
- Bethany – East of Lake Bethany softwood (BE 18) – Awarded. Will start in November.
- Bethany – East of Lake Bethany hardwood (BE 18) – Awarded. Will start in November.
 - Issued two new Firewood Permits.
 - Inventoried, analyzed, and created Qualified Foresters Reports (QFR’s) for the newly acquired Hendrickson and DePodesta properties.
 - Had a two day job shadow at the request of Salvatore Nesci.

Recreation

- Recreation permit holders – 3,982
- New patrol boat and trailer were ordered and picked up from Guilford Boat Yard.
- Bass/walleye tournament was held at Lake Saltonstall.
- Walked portion of potential new trail in north Guilford with CFPA representative.
- Assembled memorial picnic table for deceased RPB representatives and received name plates.
- Trails Day walk at Big Gulph had 10 people.
- The Water Wagon attended 11 events.

Special Activity Permits

- West Haven Parks & Recreation (Margaret Ruggiero) Fishing Derby - Maltby Lakes (6/15/2019)
- New Haven Bird Club, (Mr. Patrick T. Leahy)-Fall bird walk to observe species that are wintering on Lakes along the West River, Lake Bethany, Lake Watrous, and Lake Dawson, Bethany and Woodbridge, (10/19/19)
- New Haven Bird Club (Mr. Patrick T. Leahy)-Spring bird walk to observe species that nest in the bluebird/tree swallow boxes that are being maintained by self on RWA lands, Lake Chamberlain hiking trails, Sperry Road farm field, Lake Dawson bluebird trail below the dam, Watrous access road at north end, Bethany and Woodbridge, (05/20/20)
- Branford Community Television (BCTV) (Liz Ferguson) Rest stop for annual fundraiser “Tour de Branford” - Sugarloaf Parking Lot (9/22/19)
- Steve Birds Wildlife (Mr. Steven Bird)-to survey the Odonata species present around Lake Gaillard in specific habitats such as inlet and outlet streams, wet seeps, lake edges, meadows, and wet areas main focus of attention, Lake Gaillard, (07/05/19-07/08/19) one day weather permitting)

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Agricultural fields – Discussed possible use of fields with farmer from Middletown.
 - North Branford, former Swajchuk property (NB 17) – Mies entered into a license agreement.
 - Gaudio, Beech St., North Branford (NB 4A) – Police talked to Gaudio.
 - Bethany, Tennessee Gas ROW (BE 23) – Tennessee Gas notified us that they will start work in the first week of July with work on the pipeline during the 3rd week.
 - Woodbridge, Morris Rd. access for UI (WO 5) – Discussed UI using the road that Eversource improved off of Morris Rd.

- Durham, Vasel driveway – Pinned and marked easement. Sent letter to DPH requesting their involvement in the matter. Discussed strategy on this issue with Murtha. Found new shed installed close to the property line. Alerted Durham staff.
- North Branford, West Pond/NB Tank easement – Exchanged voicemails with abutter who holds an easement over the tank property for a driveway.
- Regional Conservation Partnership – Held latest meeting of the full group. Special topic was pollinator pathways given by Gail Cameron of HLCT.
- Deer hunt – Started receiving applications. The number of applications was less than the number of slots so all applicants were allowed through the lottery. A lottery for Bethany and Prospect was held.
- Invasive plants – Removed Japanese knotweed at Thornton St. and Davis St., Hamden. Examined treated autumn olive plants in Prospect. Operations staff cut the large field of Japanese knotweed off of Rt. 69 in Woodbridge. Completed clearing of area for water chestnuts at Furnace Pond. Corresponded with Native Plant Trust about managing around the green milkweed site. Met with Anise Dobson, grad student at Yale, to discuss her project looking at the relationship between Japanese Stiltgrass and worms.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	2.5
Invasive Species Treated (ac)	0.9

6. There were no other land items to report.
7. The next regular meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 14, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.
8. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Mark Levine, Chairman