

**Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut
Minutes of October 16, 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, October 16, 2019 at the office of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut. Chair Levine presided.

Present: Committee Members: P. Betkoski, B. Eitzer, R. Harvey, M. Horbal, M. Levine, G. Malloy, and J. Mowat Young
 RPB Members: N. Campbell and T. Clifford
 Authority: S. Sack
 RWA Management: L. Bingaman and J. Yale

Mr. Levine called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made, and seconded, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of its September 11, 2019 meeting.

Mr. Yale, RWA’s Program Specialist, provided a discussion of RWA’s Recreation Program improvements. He reported that currently the program offers fishing, hiking, cross country skiing, mountain biking, photo contest, holiday party and tree cutting, and boat rentals at Lake Saltonstall. Mr. Yale stated that the RWA is improving its program by:

- Improving the fish shack at Lake Saltonstall
- Purchasing a new patrol boat
- Placing a memorial picnic table at Lake Saltonstall
- Offering a fishing program for inner city children
- Limited program events to summer camps
- Offering land and fishing equipment for groups to use at the lakes if they have a curriculum and staff to oversee the event.

He also discussed drawbacks such as lack of transportation for inner city children to access the properties and more staff to work with the children. Various attendees offered to volunteer for some of the youth programs if needed.

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

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average	Drought Status
September 30, 2019	81	86	68	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
September 2019	2.08	7.84	3.77
Fiscal YTD (6/1/19 – 9/30/19)	14.81	20.99	15.21

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

- Cheshire - Corresponded with property owner of 40+/- acres.
- Durham - Corresponded with property owner of 16+/- acres.

Rental houses:

- Seymour, 59 Rimmon Rd. (SE 11) – Second bid was held, this time without the historic consideration easements. Three people attended the pre-bid meetings, but no bids were received.
- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) and 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Scheduled time to meet with attorney, surveyor, and town planner.

Forestry Update

- **Guilford – West of Sugar Loaf ash salvage (GU 4) – 40% 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
- 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.
 - Coordinated with Emmet Shutts and Hamden Historical Society for removal of door tree.
 - Had a contractor mow the Christmas tree plantation at Lake Gaillard.
 - Finished measuring deer regeneration plots near the Cedar Swamp in Madison.

Recreation

- Recreation permit holders – 3,860
- Discussed recreation fee structure changes and wage increases.
- Owl walk with the NBLCT at Big Gulph was attended by about 125 people.
- Invasive insect talk at the USFS office was attended by 1 person.
- Walked potential new routes for the Quinnipiac Trail in Prospect with CFPA staff.
- All Real Estate staff and some Recreation staff worked to clear the Sugar Loaf trails for 2 days.
- A vandal cut the cable securing boats at Lake Saltonstall and moved boats around.
- Water Wagon attended six events.

Special Activity Permits

- Yale University School of Forestry & Environmental Studies (Marlyse Duguid, Ph.D.) - Education/field trips for students; monitor already-existing plots set up in the swamp for long-term changes in forest health of a rare ecosystem. - North Madison Cedar Swamp – (09/11/2019-06/01/2020).
- Quinnipiac University Department of Biological Sciences (Sarah Lawson, PhD) – Education/field trips for students; measure the health of the aquatic ecosystems that surround QU campus, Clark’s Pond and Mill River, (09/13/2019 – 06/01/2020).
- Southern Connecticut State University (Michael J. Maloney)-looking to set mesh minnow traps in several ponds in Madison, transport the wood frogs that swim into the traps to the lab in New Haven for tests (strength, jump distance, etc.) then return the frogs to the ponds where they came from, Rt. 79 north of the traffic circle and Summer Hill Road, (09/13/2019-09/13/2020).
- Yale University School of Forestry & Environmental Studies (Kevin Jiang)-collect a few fish and soil sediment from Maltby Lakes and test for mercury levels – Maltby Lakes, West Haven – (09/06/19-09/30/19)

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - North Branford, Beech St (NB 4A) – Observed continued mowing from new owners of 149 Beech St. (Telles). Issued letter telling them to cease or enter into a license agreement. Contacted Gaudio about removing the items over the line and most were moved.
 - North Branford, Judson Dr. (NB 12) – Filed termination letter on town land records for the license agreement with Anne Dattilo (26 Judson Dr.). Ms. Dattilo died in 2016. Sent letter to new owners.
 - Cheshire, Harrison Rd. (CH 2) – Informed by Bob D’Ostilio that they sold the property at 264 Harrison Rd. Filed termination letter on town land records. Sent letter to new owners.
 - Bethany, 73 Sperry Rd. (BE 1) – Signed license agreement with Tunde Miklos to use a portion of our property for a pasture area.
 - North Haven, Sackett Point Rd. (NO 5) – Discovered encroachment and spoke to owner.
- Deer hunt – Pre-hunt meetings were held. 168 permits were issued for 2019.
- Branford, Lake Saltonstall hiking parking lot – Received complaint about materials dumped in the parking lot that still has the crushed stone from the DOT job on Brushy Plain Rd. ETL (DOT contractor) put up barrier to prevent easy access.
- Invasive plants – Hired vendor to cut ailanthus behind Thornton St., Hamden. Treated Devils Walking Stick off of Beech St., North Branford. Started the cut stump treatments of ailanthus around Lake Gaillard. Field of Japanese Knotweed across from West River WTP mowed for the 3rd time of the year. Collected Japanese Stiltgrass seeds for a study we are working on with the Agricultural Experiment Station on when the seeds become viable in the plants life cycle. Researched alternative methods for killing Japanese Stiltgrass. Reported population of Ural False Spirea found on Summer Hill Rd. in Madison.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	6 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	5 acres, 66 man hours

There were no other land items to report.

The committee’s next regular meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Mark Levine, Chairman