

**Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
90 Sargent Drive, New Haven
Minutes of February 12, 2020 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 12, 2020 at 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, J. Oslander

Authority: D. Borowy

RWA Management: T. Norris and J. Triana

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

1. Chair Levine reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.
2. The Committee approved the minutes of its January 8, 2020 meeting.
3. Mr. Triana, the RWA’s Real Estate Manager, provided an update on two acquisitions that took place in 2019; the DePodesta property, located in Hamden, and the Hendrickson property, located in Bethany. Mr. Triana discussed boundary lines and highlighted that the RWA received an Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant for each property, as set forth in the RWA’s 2007 initiative, “*The Land We need for the Water We Use.*”
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
January 31, 2020	88	97	77	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
January 2020	1.97	4.87	3.59
Fiscal YTD (6/1/19 – 1/31/20)	33.04	43.29	30.71

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.
- Branford - Corresponded with property owner of 25+/- acres.
- Hamden - Corresponded with property owner of 88+/- acres.

DePodesta (HA 38) and Hendrickson properties (HA 26A/BE 20A) – Governor announced OSWLA grant awards for both properties.

New Haven PRV site, Rt. 80 – Juliano provided draft survey and we supplied it to the BOE staff for review.

Rental houses:

- Seymour, 59 Rimmon Rd. (SE 11) – Seymour, 59 Rimmon Rd. (SE 11) – Received CEQ letter. Investigated replacement of oil tank and line.

Forestry Update

- Guilford – West of Sugar Loaf ash salvage (GU 4) – 40% complete
- Madison – Hammonasset Peninsula (MA 9) – **95% complete**
- Madison – West side of Hammonasset (MA 9) – **95% complete**
- North Branford - Beech Street Softwood (NB 4) – **80% complete**
- Hamden - Downs Road Tornado Salvage, (HA 28/29) – **100% complete.**
- 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) – **75% complete.**
- Bethany – East of Lake Bethany hardwood (BE 18) – **20% complete.**
 - Discussed possible use of our property with Woodbridge Sportsman’s Club in Guilford for their timber sale.
 - Corresponded with Hamden Historical Society and their mill vendor about recovering and hauling the remnants of the Door Tree.
 - Had site walk with Bethany Wetlands Commission for stream crossing in Timber Harvest 2019-02, which was approved.

Recreation

- Recreation permit holders – 3,762
- Interviewed three applicants for recreation positions.
- New shed for the fishing area was worked on to improve security.
- Held bird walk at Lake Saltonstall. Over 50 people attended.
- Completed clearing and blazing of the Sugarloaf trails. Issued post on social media.

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 (3/1/2020 - 3/1/2021)
- CT Agricultural Experiment Station (Dr. Jeff Ward, et al) - General forestry and wildlife research, tick/Lyme Disease studies - Lake Gaillard, North Madison, Prospect (02/1/2020 - 1/31/2021)
- 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 (2/1/2020 – 2/1/2021)

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Orange, Dogburn Rd. and Indian Hill Rd. – Issued letters to four abutters regarding encroachments ranging from dumped brush, cut trees, extension of a ditch, and installation of a fence and zip line.
 - Agricultural fields – Replied to three inquiries about using our fields.
 - Seymour OEM radio equipment – Sent license agreement to Seymour OEM for housing equipment in building on Clinton Rd.
- Deer hunt – Post-hunt surveys sent out and received. DPH report compiled and submitted.
- Invasive plants – Documented invasive populations in Madison and Guilford. Finalized clearing Sugarloaf trails which was mostly invasive plants.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	8 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	0 acres

- Durham, Vasel driveway – Withdrew the appeal to the inland wetlands permit. Contacted by Vasel’s attorney to discuss the condemnation.
 - Hamden, Putnam Ave. – Spoke to Steve Mongillo about the ditch that the abutter has complained about again. Reiterated that the abutter owns the ditch and can clean/maintain it to their liking.
 - Ansonia, Kimberly Ave. - Discussed access issues with owner of 303 Kimberly Ave. Noted that his access is from the west on Myrtle Ave.
5. There were no other land items to report.
 6. The next regular meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.
 7. The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Mark Levine, Chairman