

**Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
90 Sargent Drive, New Haven
Minutes of March 11, 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, March 11, 2020 at 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut. Chair Levine presided.

Present: Committee Members: P. Betkoski, B. Eitzer, R. Harvey, M. Levine, G. Malloy, J. Oslander and J. Mowat Young
 Authority: S. Sack
 RWA Management: W. Henley, 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 February 12, 2020 meeting.
3. Mr. Henley, the RWA’s Source Water Quality Analyst, provided an update on the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection’s water diversion reporting requirements. He reported how diversions were closed to avoid estimating and tracking and discussed the requirements for those that remained open.
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
February 29, 2020	92	98	82	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
February 2020	3.24	3.40	3.34
Fiscal YTD (6/1/19 – 2/29/20)	36.28	46.69	34.05

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.

Hamden, Beers property – Issued letter of support to the land trust to use with the town council.

DePodesta (HA 38) and Hendrickson properties (HA 26A/BE 20A) – Sent initial materials to DEEP for grant requirements.

Rental houses:

- Seymour, 59 Rimmon Rd. (SE 11) – Attended site visit and public hearing. Replaced oil tank and fuel lines.
- Woodbridge, 2040 Litchfield Tpk – Given tour of finished interior. Owners are living in the house now.
- Woodbridge, 1029 Johnson Rd. – Contacted owners about their plans and progress again.
- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) and 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Worked on zoning change application for Skiff St.

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) – **85% 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) – **50% complete.**
- Bethany – East of Lake Bethany softwood (BE 18) – **85% complete.**
- Bethany – East of Lake Bethany hardwood (BE 18) – 20% complete.
 - Logs from the Door Tree in Hamden were picked up by the lumber mill.
 - Completed firewood renewal letters and mailed them to approximately 120 firewood cutters.
 - Completed deer regeneration plot data collection and entry.

Recreation

- Recreation permit holders – 3,780
- Three applicants were offered positions and accepted.
- Planned for new bill inserts and billboard campaign with Comm & Outreach.
- Applications for two fishing tournaments to be held at Lake Saltonstall this coming season were filed with the CT DEEP.
- Reviewed PA's for Prospect and North Branford trails. Reviewed NDDDB report with our environmental consultant regarding the North Branford trail.
- Planned for postcard mailing to permittees with events list.
- Contacted DPH about renewals which have not been received yet.
- Worked with RWA Police to donate old recreation boat to Madison Volunteer Fire Dept.

Special Activity Permits

- McLaren Engineering Group (Craig Plate) – Perform a routine and underwater inspection of the Waite Street Bridge over Lake Whitney; contracted by CTDOT to perform the inspection; 2/14/2020.
- Resources in Search and Rescue, Inc.-(Ms. Celeste Robitaille and designees)- Training of Search and Rescue K9 teams to locate lost or missing individuals, Two Cornwall Avenue, Prospect, (02/13/2020-02/12/2021)
- Resources in Search and Rescue, Inc.-(Ms. Celeste Robitaille and designees)- Training of Search and Rescue K9 teams to locate lost or missing individuals, 20 Rimmon Road, Seymour
(02/13/2020-02/12/2021)
- Central CT State University, (Katerina Gillis and Paul Hapeman, Tenure Professor)-provide a better understanding of the distribution of fisher in suitable habitats throughout Connecticut, Dudley Pond area, (2/24/2020-3/15/2020).
- Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (Dr. Chris T. Maier, Agricultural Scientist)- Conduct research on insects, particularly longhorned beetles (continuation of 2019 projects), and flower flies 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), (3/01/20-11/30/20)
- Resources in Search and Rescue, Inc.-(Ms. Celeste Robitaille and designees)- Training of Search and Rescue K9 teams to locate drowning victims, Gaillard Reservoir south and west portion; (4/24/2020-4/26/2020)

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Orange, Dogburn Rd. and Indian Hill Rd. – Heard back from three of the four encroachers and discussed the various matters with them. All said they would cease the activities and/or remove their property.
 - North Branford, Feather La. – Issued letter to abutter about mowing and objects over the property line.
 - Prospect, Roaring Brook Rd. – Issued letter to abutter who has hose going to brook on our property.
 - North Haven, Old Maple Ave. – Discussed the next steps for this encroachment since the abutter has not responded or moved his property.
 - Agricultural fields – Replied to three inquiries about using our fields.
 - Seymour OEM radio equipment – Amended license agreement slightly. Town said they would execute and return to us.
- Deer hunt – Deer hunt – Renewals for permits sent to DPH.
- Invasive plants – Mowed two areas of invasives at Lake Gaillard. Mowed invasives at Lake Dawson dam. Cut autumn olive at the Lake Gaillard traffic circle. Met with Nancy Marek and Dr. Chandi Witharana to discuss the drone project we are working on pertaining to invasives mapping using drones and forestry applications using LIDAR and satellite imagery.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	0.5 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	5 acres

- Durham, Vasel driveway – Met with Vasel and his attorney. Discussed his release of the easement for the cost in the appraisals plus a license agreement for the part of the auxiliary driveway that cuts across our property.
 - Regional Conservation Partnership – Set dates for April meeting on Pollinator Pathways and June meeting on traprock ridges. Sent email to all notifying them to save the date. Corresponded with North Haven Land Trust staff about encroachment issues they have.
 - West Haven, Maltby outflow culvert – Researched records to determine who owned the culvert taking the Maltby outflow under Rt. 34 since a crew from Frontier drilled a hole through it to set a pole.
5. There were no other land items to report.
6. The next regular meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 8, 2020.
- Upcoming Special meetings to review the FY 2021 Budget (*members may attend either meeting*):
 - i. Monday, April 20, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. – joint meeting of Consumer Affairs Committee and Land Use Committee
 - ii. Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. – Finance Committee
7. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.