

**Representative Policy Board  
Land Use Committee  
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District  
Via Remote Access\*\***

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**AGENDA**

**Regular Meeting of Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.**

1. Safety Moment
2. Approval of Minutes – March 11, 2020 meeting
3. Special Topic: Environmental Compliance Update – A. Velasquez
4. Updates on other land and RWA properties, including invasive species update
5. Other Land items
6. Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

**Special Joint Meetings to Review FY 2021 Budget**

- CAC/LUC (Joint Meeting) – Monday, April 20, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.
- Finance Committee – Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

7. Adjourn

<p><b>**In accordance with the Governor Lamont's, Executive Order No. 7B for the Protection of Public Health and Safety during COVID-19 Pandemic and Response, the public hearing will be held remotely under the requirements of Paragraph 1 of Executive Order No. 7B - Suspension of In-Person Open Meeting Requirements. Members of the public may attend the meeting via conference call, videoconference or other technology. For questions, contact the board office at 203-401-2515.</b></p>
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**Topic: RPB Land Use Committee Meeting**

Time: Apr 8, 2020 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting (*via conference call only*)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

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+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 395 849 726

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/abz2m1OXsY>

Questions regarding the meeting can be submitted to Jennifer Slubowski at the board office at [jslubowski@rwater.com](mailto:jslubowski@rwater.com) or you can call 203-401-2515.

# SAFETY MOMENT

## *How to cope with Social Distancing*

- **Limit news consumption to reliable sources** – balance your time spent watching news and on social media. Try reading, listening to music or learning something new.
- **Create and follow a daily routine** – maintaining a daily routine can help both adults and children preserve a sense of order and purpose in their lives.
- **Stay virtually connected with others** – use phone calls, text messages, and video chat to access social support networks.
- **Rely on pets for emotional support**
- **Maintain a healthy lifestyle** – get enough sleep, eat well and get plenty of exercise
- **Avoid using alcohol or drugs** to cope with the stress of social distancing
- **Use strategies to manage stress and stay positive** – focus on what you can do to help others, use techniques such as meditation and relaxation exercises.

**Tap Into  
Safety**



Regional Water Authority



Service – Teamwork – Accountability – Respect – Safety

Safety is a core company value at the Regional Water Authority .  
It is our goal to reduce workplace injuries to zero.

 Regional Water Authority

**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.

# **Environmental Compliance Update**

Presentation to:  
The Regional Water Authority  
RPB Land Use Committee

April 8, 2020

Amy Velasquez  
Environmental Compliance & Sustainability Lead





# RWA Regulatory Compliance Program

1. Fuel Storage and Spill Prevention
2. Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know
3. Emergency Generators
4. Waste Disposal
5. Wastewater Discharge Permitting





# Aboveground Fuel Storage: EPA Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Regulations

- Applicability
  - Storage > 1,320 gallons
  - Oil must discharge to a waterway
- Requirements
  - SPCC Plan
  - Monthly inspections
  - Annual training



# Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA)

- Notification requirements for storage and handling of hazardous chemicals;
- Submit an annual chemical inventory report to:
  - State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)
  - Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs)
  - Local fire chiefs



# Emergency Generators

- Air permits not required if operated as emergency generators
  - Must limit hours of non-emergency use
  - Cannot exceed NOx emission limits
  - Restricted operation on bad ozone days
  - Manufacturer's certification
  - Ultra low sulfur diesel fuel



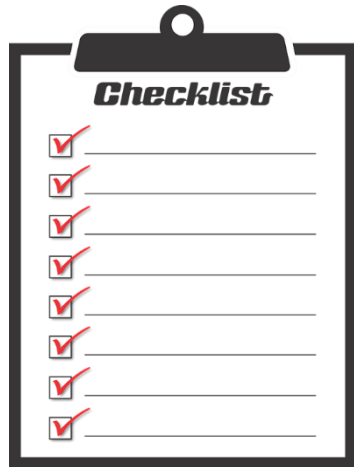
# Waste Storage & Disposal

- Applicable regulations
  - RCRA, Universal Waste, CT Regulated Wastes
- Provide regulatory guidance to RWA departments
  - Treatment, Engineering, Laboratory & Facilities
- Manifesting (“Cradle to Grave”)
  - Staff training
- Maintaining Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) Status



# Compliance Status

- We are in compliance with:
  - SPCC regulations
  - EPCRA reporting requirements
  - Operating requirements for emergency generators
  - Waste storage & disposal regulations





## CTDEEP Wastewater Discharge Permitting

- Sec 22a-430-3: CT DEEP permit required for discharges to sewer, surface water and groundwater
  - Comprehensive General Permit for Discharges to Surface Water and Groundwater (Comprehensive)
  - General Permit for Miscellaneous Discharge of Sewer Compatible Wastewater (MISC)
  - General Permit for Discharges of Vehicle Maintenance Wastewaters

# Comprehensive General Permit for West River WTP

- Historic issues with groundwater discharge from water treatment residuals drying bed (manganese and iron)
- Manganese and iron levels were a result of the required sampling location
- Installed groundwater monitoring wells to get true groundwater results
- Manganese levels greater than limit in one well
- Met with CTDEEP in October 2019
- February 2020 CTDEEP staff presenting schedule to management

# Miscellaneous General Permit for Gaillard WTP

- Applied for General Permit in May 2018
- December 2019 CTDEEP deemed application insufficient
- Due to this, entered into new sewer agreement with North Branford February 2020
- Preparing new General Permit application
- Treatment modifying operations to reduce flow and developing project to treat discharge for recycling







# Wastewater Looking Forward

- Whitney WTP will need to apply for revised Miscellaneous General Permit in October 2020
- Gaillard WTP will need to apply for General Permit for Significant Industrial Users in October 2020



**April 8, 2020**  
**Land Use Committee Meeting**

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average	Drought Status
March 31, 2020	98	97	91	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
March 2020	4.03	2.70	4.32
Fiscal YTD (6/1/19 – 3/31/20)	40.31	49.39	38.37

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.

Olin property option, Hamden – Received legal opinion from Murtha that the option would not be considered an interest in real estate, therefore it would not need to go through the disposition process.

DePodesta (HA 38) and Hendrickson properties (HA 26A/BE 20A) – Sent materials to DEEP (title searches, certificates of title, legal descriptions, and surveys)

Rental houses:

- Seymour, 59 Rimmon Rd. (SE 11) – Fixed plumbing issue. RPB approved disposition application. Notice published in the newspaper.
- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) and 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Printed out all the copies for the application.

Forestry Update

- Guilford – West of Sugar Loaf ash salvage (GU 4) – 40% complete
  - Madison – Hammonasset Peninsula (MA 9) – **Complete.**
  - Madison – West side of Hammonasset (MA 9) – **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) – **Complete.**
  - Bethany – East of Lake Bethany softwood (BE 18) – **Complete.**
  - Bethany – East of Lake Bethany hardwood (BE 18) – **70% 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 – 4,049.
- Billboard campaign about fishing started.
- Finalized PA's for Prospect and North Branford trails.

- Got replacement for the Eric Stone sign at Chamberlain.
- Governor moved up the opening day of fishing due to the COVID crisis. Decided to not install the docks or run the boat program due to COVID (social distancing concerns).
- Worked on proposal to offer free permits for Maltby and Saltonstall.
- Completed the recreation photo contest online.

#### 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.
- Gateway Community College, (Kristina Kosnoff) and designees)-Provide a better understanding to the student group mission for the purpose of outdoor education; discuss the terrain and species, and safe hiking practices, Maltby Lakes, West Haven; (4/4/2020)
- Southern Connecticut State University, (Steven P. Brady, Assistant Professor and designees) - Studying light and salt pollution effects on amphibians and their habitats; collect water quality and environmental data at several wetlands, ponds, streams, and the Mill River, Hamden; (3/11/2020-3/11/2021).

#### Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
  - Agricultural fields – Replied to three inquiries about using our fields.
  - Seymour OEM radio equipment – Executed agreement to use the building at 3 Clinton Rd.
  - Branford, sewer pump station – Corresponded with Branford Engineer about the matter of an encroachment on our property.
- Invasive plants – Mapped invasive populations in Bethany, Madison, and Prospect. Treated invasive populations in Hamden. Met with DEEP wildlife staff to look at areas of barberry for a satellite mapping program they are testing.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	2.5acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	0.5 acres

- Durham, Vassel driveway – Survey of licensed area completed. Reviewed new drafts of license agreement.
- Former copper mine, Hamden – Replied to customer regarding suggestion to place grate over former mine to help bats. Informed him that the mine had been buried some time ago and no bats live within it.

#### Attachments

- March 12, 2020 - Connecticut must require its large drinking water supply companies to test for PFAS – CT Mirror.
- March 13, 2020 - Regional Water Authority suspending shutoffs, continuing maintenance, during coronavirus outbreak – NH Register
- April 4, 2020 - Sleeping Giant State Park at capacity – NH Register

#### Upcoming Agenda Items

May 2020 –

## **Connecticut must require its large drinking water supply companies to test for PFAS**

CT Viewpoints - by Nancy Alderman - March 12, 2020 – CT Mirror

Environment and Human Health, Inc. (EHHI) called the South Central Regional Water Authority (RWA) a month ago to determine whether they were testing the region's water for PFAS. The RWA serves Ansonia, Bethany, Branford, Cheshire, Derby, East Haven, Hamden, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, West Haven and Woodbridge. RWA assured us they were.

EHHI called the Metropolitan District Water Supply Company (MDC) the same day, and they informed us they were not testing for PFAS. MDC is the largest water supply company in Connecticut, serving Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor.

The MDC gets its water from two large reservoirs located within the Farmington River Watershed – Barkhamsted Reservoir and Nepaug Reservoir. Barkhamsted Reservoir is the largest drinking water reservoir in Connecticut, with a capacity of 30.3 billion gallons. Nepaug Reservoir, also one of the largest in the state, has a capacity of 9.5 billion gallons.

PFAS is an acronym for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. These are a group of at least 4,700 synthetic chemicals which have been in commercial production since the 1940s. They make surfaces resistant to stains, water and grease.

PFAS contaminate water supplies through two main sources: firefighting foam and industrial discharges. For decades, the U.S. military has used firefighting foam containing PFAS in training exercises at hundreds of military bases around the country. Commercial airports also use firefighting foam containing PFAS. A recent Department of Defense report states that drinking water supplies at 126 military facilities have been contaminated with PFAS.

In Connecticut last year, in an incident at Bradley Airport, firefighting foam was released and contaminated the Farmington River.

Why is it important for drinking water to be protected from PFAS?

PFAS don't break down easily – they persist in the environment and in human bodies for decades. Because this class of chemicals is used for so many purposes, and because they persist so long, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that more than 95 percent of the U.S. population have PFAS in their bodies. This is why PFAS are often called "forever" chemicals.

According to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), studies have indicated that PFAS pose serious risk to human health. This federal agency reports that PFAS can harm fetal and child developments, interfere with adult hormones and fertility, and cause high cholesterol, as well as other health risks.

Two widely-used PFAS, known as PFOA and PFOS, have been linked to kidney cancer and testicular cancer. Scientists have discovered unusual clusters of other rare cancers in communities near military bases, where drinking water has been contaminated by firefighting foam.

Once drinking water has been contaminated with PFAS the clean-up costs are very expensive.

The Air Force recently testified that it has spent almost \$500 million to clean up "forever chemicals" (PFAs) that have polluted bases across the country. The Navy reported last week that it has set aside \$60 million for PFAS cleanup in 2020 and 2021. Meanwhile, The Pentagon is preparing to report to Congress this month on work by its PFAS task force, formed by Defense Secretary Mark Esper, about how they plan to manage potential pollution at 401 facilities. Previously estimated costs for this clean up are \$2 billion.

We cannot know whether PFAS are contaminating our drinking water unless the water is tested. There is legislation now before the Connecticut Public Health Committee, HB 5288, requiring Connecticut's drinking water supply companies test for PFAS. It is of the utmost importance that this bill becomes law, if we are to protect Connecticut's citizens.

## **Regional Water Authority suspending shutoffs, continuing maintenance, during coronavirus outbreak**

By Ben Lambert - March 13, 2020 – NH Register

NEW HAVEN — The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority is suspending service shutoffs for unpaid bills until April 30 and taking additional precautions due to concerns about the coronavirus, according to a release.

“Access to water is critical to the protection of health and safety at all times, but particularly when managing a serious disease outbreak like COVID-19,” said Larry Bingaman, president and CEO of the Regional Water Authority in a statement.

“No one should be deprived of access to tap water due to inability to pay during this time of heightened need,” he said. “The RWA is temporarily ceasing all water service shutoffs as a result of nonpayment until April 30 so that our customers will continue to have access to water for hygiene, consumption and safety during the current pandemic event.”

The Regional Water Authority is confident Covid-19, the specific disease caused by the coronavirus, “poses no risk to drinking water,” officials said in the release.

## **Sleeping Giant State Park at capacity**

By Ben Lambert - April 4, 2020 – NH Register

HAMDEN — Sleeping Giant State Park was at capacity as of approximately 2 p.m., according to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

The park has been closed to further visitors as the parking lot is full, officials said on Twitter.

Earlier this week, DEEP and Gov. Ned Lamont announced plans to limit parking capacity at certain state parks and to prohibit walk-in visitors who leave their vehicles outside of already filled lots to maintain social distancing.

Kent Falls State Park and Talcott Mountain State Park were also closed Saturday afternoon.