

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

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**AGENDA**

**Regular Meeting of Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.**

1. Safety Moment
2. Approval of Minutes – April 8, 2020 and April 20, 2020 meetings
3. Treatment of Japanese stilt grass on RWA Property: A. Amendola and J. Tracy
4. Updates on other land and RWA properties, including invasive species update
5. Other Land items
6. Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.
7. Adjourn

**\*\***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 information on attending the meeting via remote access, and to view meeting documents, please visit <https://www.rwater.com/about-us/our-boards/board-meetings-minutes?year=2020&category=1435&meettype=&page=>. For questions, contact the board office at [jslubowski@rwater.com](mailto:jslubowski@rwater.com) or call 203-401-2515.

**Representative Policy Board  
Land Use Committee  
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District  
Remote Access Information:**

Time: May 13, 2020 04:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting (*via conference call*)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 813 8120 1921

Password: 807742

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kefypV2yIE>

# SAFETY MOMENT

**Tap Into  
Safety**



Regional Water Authority

## Disinfecting clothes: How to prevent the spread of COVID-19

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, health organizations around the globe continue to highlight the importance of physical distancing, hand washing, and disinfecting everyday items, such as clothes.

### How to disinfect clothes:

- Launder items with laundry soap or household detergent
- Consider using detergent that contains bleach
- Consider soaking clothes in a solution before washing them
- Choose the warmest available water setting
- Dry clothing completely
- Disinfect laundry baskets, which the EPA has approved
- Wear gloves when doing laundry

It is still unclear how long infectious SARS-CoV-2 viruses can stay on different clothing material. Current research suggests that the SARS-CoV-2 virus cannot withstand temperatures at or above 70° C (158° F).

Using household disinfectants, such as bleach, may also help inactivate viruses. However, it is important to exercise caution when adding bleach to a load of laundry, as it can damage colored items. People may wish to look for color-safe bleach products to prevent this from occurring.



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  
Via Remote Access  
Minutes of April 8, 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, April 8, 2020 via remote access. Chair Levine presided.

Present: Committee Members: P. Betkoski, B. Eitzer, R. Harvey, M. Horbal, M. Levine, G. Malloy, J. Oslander and J. Mowat Young  
RPB: M. Ricozzi  
Authority: David Borowy  
RWA Management: A. Velasquez, 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 March 11, 2020 meeting.
3. Ms. Velasquez, RWA’s Environmental Compliance Analyst, provided an environmental compliance update, which included:
  - RWA’s Regulatory compliance program
  - Environmental Protection Agency Prevention Control and Countermeasure Regulations
  - Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-know Act
  - Generator regulations and requirements
  - Waste storage & disposal
  - Compliance status
  - CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency Wastewater discharge permitting
  - Future outlook

At 5:50 p.m., Ms. Velasquez withdrew from the meeting.

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
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, Vasel 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.
5. There were no other land items to report.
6. The next regular meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.
- 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 6:07 p.m.

**UNAPPROVED DRAFT**

**Representative Policy Board  
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District  
Joint Meeting of the  
Consumer Affairs Committee  
and  
Land Use Committee**

**Minutes of the April 20, 2020 Joint Meeting**

A joint meeting of the Consumer Affairs Committee (“CAC”) and the Land Use Committee (“LUC”) of the Representative Policy Board of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District (“RPB”) took place on Monday, April 20, 2020 via remote access. Committee members present were: B. Eitzer, M. Horbal, G. Malloy, S. Mongillo, J. Oslander, F. Pepe, T. Rescigno, and R. Smith.

RPB members present were: C. Havrda and M. Ricoszi.

RWA members present were: L. Bingaman, L. Discepolo, R. Gavrilovic, R. Kowalski, B. Nesteriak, J. Reckdenwald, and P. Singh. T. DiSalvo, K. Curseaden and D. Borowy attended from the Authority, and Jeff Donofrio, Esq. from the Office of Consumer Affairs (“OCA”).

RPB staff present: J. Slubowski.

Chairman Stephen Mongillo of the CAC, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

He stated that the joint meeting is being held to review the FY 2021 operating and capital budgets but it is also the regular meeting of the CAC and some items of business of the committee would take place before the budget review. Chair Mongillo reviewed the safety moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Mr. Pepe, seconded by Mr. Smith, and unanimously carried, the CAC voted to approve the minutes of its February 24, 2020 meeting and its March 16, 2020 meeting.

Attorney Donofrio reported no pending consumer complaints.

On motion made by Mr. Rescigno, seconded by Mr. Pepe, and unanimously carried, the CAC voted to approve the OCA’s invoices for February 2020 in the amount of \$3,122.40 and for March 2020 in the amount of \$2,132.50.

Chair Mongillo reported that the next regular meeting of the CAC is Monday, May 18, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

At 5:34 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Pepe, seconded by Mr. Rescigno, and unanimously carried, the CAC and the LUC voted to go into executive session to review and discuss the FY 2021 Budget, which included confidential information related to personnel matters. Present in executive session were CAC members, LUC members, RPB members present, RWA members present and the OCA.

At 7:07 p.m., the CAC and the LUC came out of executive session and the meeting adjourned.

Representative Policy Board  
Joint Meeting Consumer Affairs and Land Use Committees  
April 20, 2020

**UNAPPROVED DRAFT**

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Mongillo  
CAC Chairman



**Presentation to the RPB's Land Use Committee  
May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Japanese Stiltgrass Control Plots  
Prospect, CT**



**Joshua Tracy  
Invasive Species  
Management Technician**

**Alexander Amendola  
Forester**

# Overview and Goals

- Japanese Stiltgrass (JSG) presents a major water quality and forest health issue.
- Multi-year experiment to find the best and most cost effective method for JSG control.
- Data analyzed annually to establish best long-term control.
- If more options become available, we will test them as well.



# Methodology

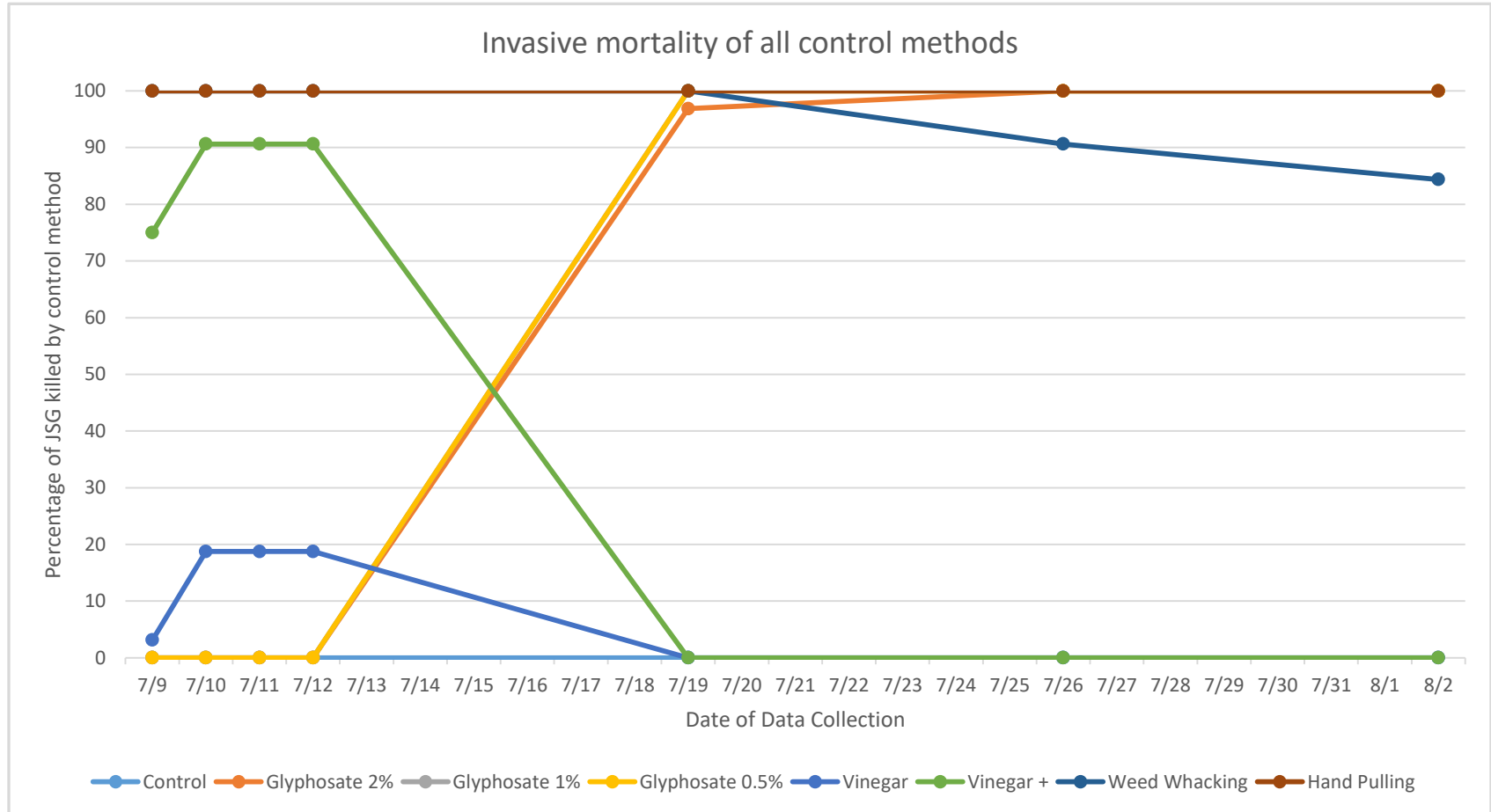
- 16 plots, 6.6'x6.6' (1000<sup>th</sup> acre).
- Control, vinegar, glyphosate, and mechanical means.
- Treatments done in early July.
- Monitored Daily for a week, then once a week for the next 4 weeks.

Plot 1: Control #1										Plot 14: Control #2		
Plot 2: 2% Glyphosate	Plot 3: 1% Glyphosate	Plot 4: 0.5% Glyphosate										
Plot 5: Cleaning Vinegar (6%)	Plot 6: Cleaning Vinegar (6%) + salt and soap.	Plot 7: Weed Whacker	Plot 8: Hand Pulling	Plot 9: 2% Glyphosate	Plot 10: 1% Glyphosate	Plot 11: 0.5% Glyphosate	Plot 12: Cleaning Vinegar (6%)	Plot 13: Cleaning Vinegar (6%) + salt and soap.	Plot 15: Weed Whacker	Plot 16: Hand Pulling		





# Results (after 2019 growing season)

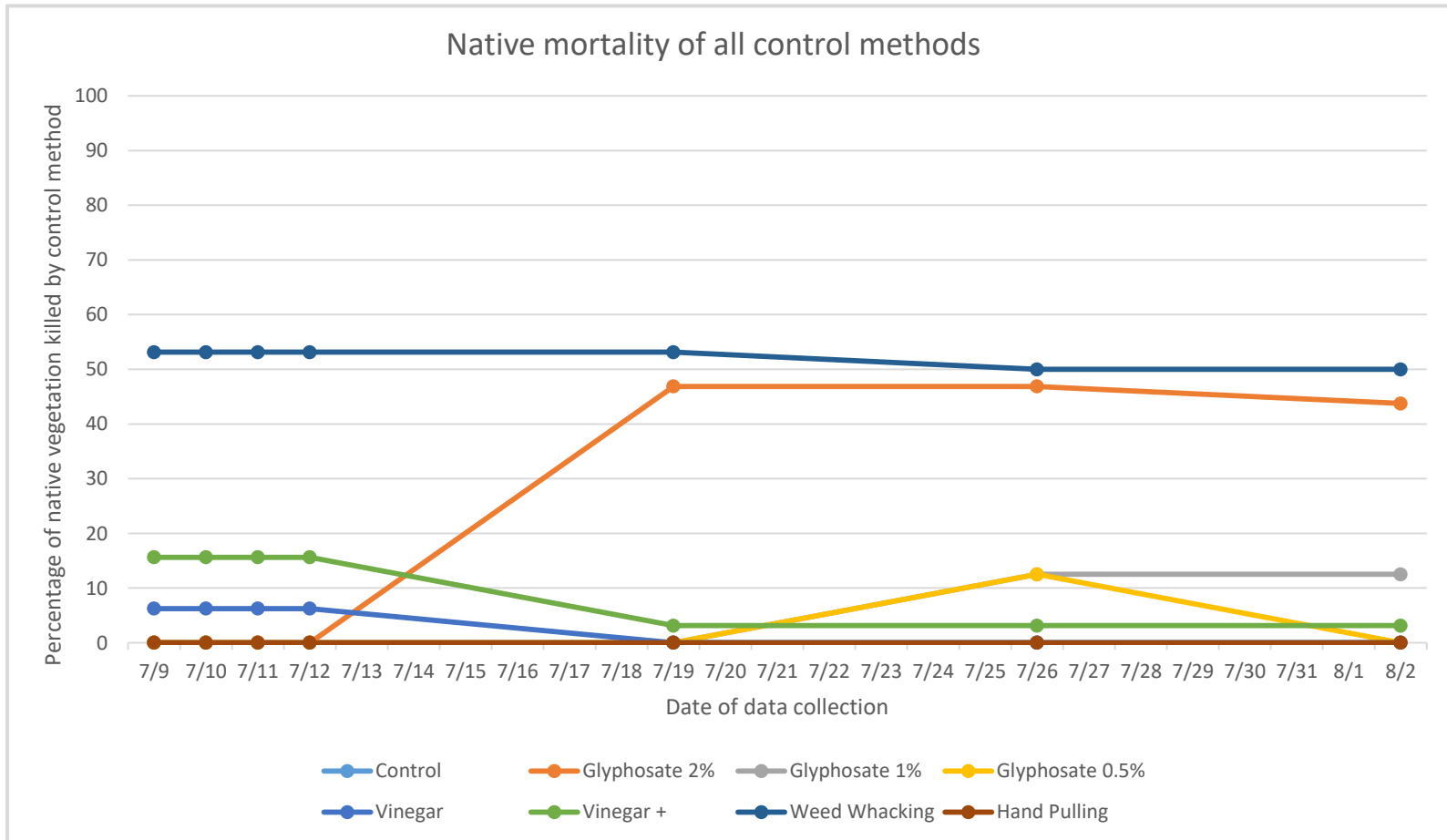


# Results (after 2019 growing season)

	Invasive Mortality % (IM)							
	Methods							
Date	Control	Glyphosate 2%	Glyphosate 1%	Glyphosate 0.5%	Vinegar	Vinegar +	Weed Whacking	Hand Pulling
7/9	0	0	0	0	3.125	75	100	100
7/10	0	0	0	0	18.75	90.625	100	100
7/11	0	0	0	0	18.75	90.625	100	100
7/12	0	0	0	0	18.75	90.625	100	100
7/19	0	96.875	100	100	0	0	100	100
7/26	0	100	100	100	0	0	90.625	100
8/2	0	100	100	100	0	0	84.375	100



# Results (after 2019 growing season)



# Results (after 2019 growing season)

	Native Mortality % (NM)							
	Methods/control average							
Date	Control	Glyphosate 2%	Glyphosate 1%	Glyphosate 0.5%	Vinegar	Vinegar +	Weed Whacking	Hand Pulling
7/9	0	0	0	0	6.25	15.625	53.125	0
7/10	0	0	0	0	6.25	15.625	53.125	0
7/11	0	0	0	0	6.25	15.625	53.125	0
7/12	0	0	0	0	6.25	15.625	53.125	0
7/19	0	46.875	0	0	0	3.125	53.125	0
7/26	0	46.875	12.5	12.5	0	3.125	50	0
8/2	0	43.75	12.5	0	0	3.125	50	0





# Results of 2% Glyphosate Concentration



5/7/2020: Plot with 2% concentration of Glyphosate.



5/7/2020: Plot with 2% concentration of Glyphosate.





# Results of 0.5% Glyphosate Concentration





# Results of Vinegar



\*Mix of vinegar (6% acidity), salt and surfactant on 1/1000 of an acre. 6 days after initial treatment.



\*Mix of vinegar (6% acidity), salt and surfactant on 1/1000 of an acre. 14 days after initial treatment.





# Results of Vinegar



\*Mix of vinegar (6% acidity), salt and surfactant on 1/1000 of an acre.  
May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020,





# Results of Hand Pulling



\*Hand pulling of stiltgrass from plot. 17 minutes per 1/1000 of an acre. 6 days after initial treatment.



\*Hand pulling of stiltgrass from plot. May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.



# Conclusions

- Glyphosate provides excellent control even at one quarter the recommended dosage, largely leaving native vegetation untouched.
- Vinegar has not proven effective in a single dose.
- Mechanical methods either take large amounts of time (hand pulling, 283 man hours / acre) or cause a lot of collateral damage to native regeneration (weed whacker).
- Additionally, invasive mortality incurred by glyphosate appears to make the dead grass stalks deteriorate faster.





# Plans for 2020

- Continue the second round of control.
- Add additional plots to test Acclaim (Fenoxaprop-p-ethyl).
- Try additional dosages of vinegar.
- Test how stiltgrass reacts to fire with the propane torch.
- Collect samples of herbicide-killed grass in order to determine if it does indeed decompose faster.



**May 13, 2020**  
**Land Use Committee Meeting**

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average	Drought Status
April 30, 2020	99	99	94	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
April 2020	5.70	7.41	4.27
Fiscal YTD (6/1/19 – 4/30/20)	46.01	56.80	42.65

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.
- Killingworth - Corresponded with property owner of 5+/- acres.

DePodesta (HA 38) and Hendrickson properties (HA 26A/BE 20A) – Sent additional materials to DEEP for the OSWLA grants.

Rental houses:

- Seymour, 59 Rimmon Rd. (SE 11) – Completed bid and submitted to Purchasing to issue once the appeal period expires.
- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) and 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Murtha staff called the P&Z office, but hasn't gotten any replies yet due to COVID closures.
- Guilford, 1115 Great Hill Rd. – Corresponded with new owner about progress.

Forestry Update

- Guilford – West of Sugar Loaf ash salvage (GU 4) – 40% 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
  - Bethany – East of Lake Bethany hardwood (BE 18) – 70% complete.
- 
- Found damage to vernal pool and use of steep slope for logging by commercial firewood cutter. Forester revoked his permit.
  - Planted approximately 1000 Christmas trees at the Lake Gaillard plantations.
  - Planted 100 Pitch Pine (larger transplants than the Christmas trees) at the Maltby Lakes and the Gaillard tunnel project for reforestation.
  - Met with Jeff Ward, Chief Scientist at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station to design several future timber harvest experimental deer enclosures.

## Recreation

- Recreation permit holders – 4,479.
- Billboard campaign with 20% coupon continued
- Heavy use at all areas was noticed due to COVID restrictions. This led to record-breaking sales of permits and revenues.
- Free permit program was put on hold until after the COVID restrictions are lifted.
- Recreation staff have been stationed at the Maltby Lakes and Lake Saltonstall parking lots daily since April 13. This was due to the increased volume of people at the two areas.
- Reblazed and cleared all trails at Maltby Lakes and Lake Saltonstall.
- Trout were stocked at Maltby Lakes and Lake Saltonstall.
- Received DPH renewals for Lake Bethany hiking and Genesee/MMM Trail. However, there were typos in the Genesee/MMM Trail and DPH said they would re-issue them.

## Special Activity Permits

- Southern Connecticut State University (Steven K. Burian, Professor) Sampling for caddisfly larva of family Sericostomatidae using d-frame kick net and screen to sieve sediment in stream channel, Sargent River between Valley Road and Hilldale Road, Bethany, (4/1/2020-9/30/2020).
- Menunkatuck Audubon Society (Tom Kelly) - Monitoring of Barn Owl nesting boxes - North Guilford owl box locations: Menunkatuck Reservoir (RT 77); Saw Mill Hill Road; Beaverhead Road; Great Hill Road (2 locations) (04/01/2020 to 07/01/2020).
- North Madison Vol. Fire Co. (Bob Blundon) – map roads and trails for fire rescue and firefighting property in North Madison; (4/9/2020 – 12/31/2020) Mr. Bob Blundon

## Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
  - Agricultural fields – Replied to six inquiries about using our fields.
  - Bethany, Bethany Horsemen – Sent updated annual agreement to BH to review and execute.
- Invasive plants – Treated and mapped invasive populations in East Haven, West Haven, and North Branford.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	~ 59 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	~ 9 acres

- Durham, Vasel driveway – Vasel’s attorney noted that his client would not sign a license agreement where the licensor could revoke the agreement at any time. They were pursuing the adverse possession claim against the abutter to the north.
- Bethany, bee swarm boxes – Sent letter to Bethany resident to take down the bee swarm boxes in Bethany if they were his. By the end of the month, they were removed.
- Guilford, ATV’s and dirt bikes – Received videos from Guilford Land Trust staff showing dirt bikes, ATV’s and Jeeps driving over our and GLT’s properties at Bluff Head. Checked on area and relayed information to police.
- Durham, former Sullivan properties – Gail Sullivan sent a letter asking if she could buy her properties back that were sold to us in 2003. I went over how that was not possible.
- East Haven, Barberry Rd. drainage ditch – Met with Chris Roche after he received a request for the town to enter the field to open up the ditch and improve drainage. Said that would be OK, but we should get acknowledgement from EH’s inland wetland enforcement officer.
- Deer hunt – Received DPH Recreational Activity Permit for North Branford and Seymour/Ansonia areas.



## Attachments

- April 24, 2020 - Connecticut Water offering land for preservation as open space – Middletown Press
- April 14, 2020 - Detroit's running water problems pose threat as city is hit hard by coronavirus outbreak - CBS News
- April 2020 – Yale Nature Preserve Trail – <https://theairlandandsea.com/2020/04/yale-nature-preserve-trail-guide.html>
- April 2020 - ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT SHOWS RWA CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN HIGH WATER QUALITY STANDARDS – RWA Press Release
- April 4, 2020 - Sleeping Giant State Park at capacity – NH Register

## Upcoming Agenda Items

May 2020 –

### **Connecticut Water offering land for preservation as open space**

Middletown Press - April 24, 2020

CLINTON — In the spirit of Earth Day, Connecticut Water has completed notification to 10 Connecticut towns and several private nonprofit land conservation organizations of the availability of company-owned land for preservation as open space.

In all, there are approximately 480 acres of land the utility no longer needs for water supply purposes, according to a press release.

“Connecticut Water has a strong record of preserving open-space land, working with local communities and land-holding organizations to preserve more than 1,000 acres over the past 20 years,” President Maureen P. Westbrook said in a prepared statement. “Most of these parcels are in their natural states and an asset to the community.”

Connecticut Water owns more than 6,000 acres of land in the state, the news release continued. The parcels specified in the Save the Sound agreement are located in municipalities, including Chester (four plots totaling 112 acres) and Killingworth (three plots totaling 38 acres).

The process of offering these parcels for sale to land conservation organizations is outlined in a 2018 agreement between Connecticut Water and Save the Sound that demonstrates the benefits of the company's combination with SJW Group, completed in 2019, the release said.

The utility notified towns and local land trusts that the land is available. The agreement allows land trusts an extended and expanded schedule beyond what's outlined in Connecticut state statutes, giving communities a longer timeline to assess interest in the properties and acquire funding for the designated parcels, with at least 24 months to execute a plan to secure the property, according to the company.

“Water companies are significant holders of forested land that cleans air, filters our water, provides habitat for wildlife, and offers hiking and birding opportunities for Connecticut citizens. As such, they're critical environmental stewards,” Katherine Fiedler, legal fellow for Save the Sound, said in the statement.

Under the agreement, the utility is also evaluating other company-owned land to evaluate its suitability for passive recreation opportunities that provide for the protection of public water supply sources, according to the release.

## **Detroit's running water problems pose threat as city is hit hard by coronavirus outbreak**

CBS News April 14, 2020

Michigan officials say the city of Detroit has over 6,800 confirmed coronavirus cases and more than 5% have died, making it one of the country's hardest-hit areas. Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan initiated the Coronavirus Water Restart Program in March to help control the spread of the virus, in a community where 36% of the population lives in poverty.

Access to water has been an issue facing Detroiters since 2014 when the city started a series of controversial water shutoffs. With the coronavirus spreading quickly, especially through poor and African American communities, having running water is essential to hygienic precautions.

"The only residents of Detroit who should not have water on are those who don't reach out," Duggan announced.

Lifelong Detroit residents Valaria Griffin told CBS News' Jericka Duncan that she had been living without running water for several months, and that she could not afford the repairs on the cracked old pipes running through her home.

Griffin described using "wash pails" to perform routine hygiene.

"I fill it up with water and stand in it and I do my thing," she said.

For many people in Detroit who cannot afford running water, Mayor Duggan's program is crucial to perform the most basic precaution repeated by health experts: washing hands.

However, city officials said they are currently more focused on COVID-19 testing than existing social inequalities — medical workers and volunteers have been testing around 1,000 people per day.

Detroit's blossoming small business scene has been hit hard by the pandemic as well. Resident Godwin Ihentuge opened a restaurant called Yum Village after the city declared bankruptcy and said he did his best week of sales to date at the beginning of March, before the city shut down and profits plummeted.

"We'll still need to figure out how to survive... or we'll just have to realistically close. And then, you know, start trying to pay off all the debt that comes with owning a business," he said.

Despite mounting cases and facing the unknown, pockets of optimism can be found through the city. A viral video created by Doner Advertising in Detroit showing empty city streets promotes the "togetherness" of social-isolation in the fight against the coronavirus.

"We're coming back with all eight cylinders," the video narrates. "Because here we don't stop in the name of fear. Here, we stop in the name of love."

For access to water assistance, Detroit residents can call (313) 279-0698 or click into 'Hydrate Detroit.'

## Yale Nature Preserve Trail Guide

The Yale Nature Preserve is in Woodbridge in New Haven Connecticut off Fountain Street. Its a well hidden peaceful nature preserve with trails that meander through rocky outcrops and pine woodland.

As most loops round this preserve take about 3 miles you can also enjoy nearby trails at Naugatuck and Regicides in the same day.

### *Full Guide*

This trail is the most unassuming and unlikely candidate for one of my favourite trails in CT. It has no epic vistas, no waterfalls or grand elevation and yet somehow manages to be an incredibly peaceful. It somehow hides the road noise from the nearby Wilbur Cross Parkway and although being very small feels MUCH BIGGER when you are inside.

### *History of Yale Nature Preserve*

There is no Nature Preserve sign at the entrance, no car parking and no sign that this preserve exists other than some scruffy chain link fencing. On a map this thin sliver of land is squashed between the busy Merrit Parkway and the Yale Golf Course.

### *Shonas Trail*

Once inside the trail you can basically meander roughly southwards on one of a few trails. On the left you will get glimpses of Yale Golf Course and if you listen carefully the Wilbur Cross Parkway can just be heard behind a steep natural ridge off to your right. You'll cross a wooden boardwalk through a wetland area and eventually turn left at a fork through some old open mesh fence gates past some tall reeds.

You'll eventually meet a crossroads with yellow circular markings on them from here go uphill at the junction and follow the well laid yellow blobs across about 1.5 miles of undulating and meandering path that has been cleared by the odd mountain bike that goes through here. I've come to to call this part marked in yellow 'Shonas Trail' after my wife who regularly runs through here and found the route.

### *Foam House Ruins*

At the south western tip of the the Yale Golf Course is the remnants of an old 1960s expanding foam experimental house. It can be quite a surprise seen from a distance.



Inflatable foam house built on the Yale Golf Course under the direction of Felix Drury, 1968. © Image courtesy Yale University Library Manuscripts and Archives



Once you get down to the southernmost part of the trail you have a number of options to get back. you wont get lost because you will always have the golf course on the right and Wilbur Cross Parkway on your left to help guide and orientate you back. In fact there is a path back that literally follows the treeline by the parkway, one through the middle of the preserve and one sightly to the east by the golf course side, all heading back to the entrance. You can also access Maltby Lakes from this southern area but remember you need a permit to visit Maltby Lakes preserve as its run by a regional water authority.

### *Parking*

The preserve entrance is located opposite Seneca Rd where it meets Fountain Street in New Haven. You can park considerately on any of the side roads along Fountain Street.

## **ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT SHOWS RWA CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN HIGH WATER QUALITY STANDARDS**

RWA Press Release

RWA customers will soon receive a report in the mail detailing the RWA's water quality in 2019

The Regional Water Authority (RWA) is issuing its annual water quality report to customers in the Greater New Haven region. The Consumers' Annual Report on Water Quality provides information about the RWA's sources of drinking water, shows water quality test results for 2019 and contains other important information about tap water and health. In addition to consumers receiving a printed copy of the report in the mail, the report is also available on the RWA's website at [rwa.com](http://rwa.com).

The RWA's 2019 Consumers' Annual Report on Water Quality demonstrates that the environmental services company continues to provide high-quality, reliable drinking water that meets or is better than all federal and state drinking water standards. The RWA's regular water treatment processes include disinfecting all water before it reaches customers. This disinfection process also ensures that tap water is safe from COVID-19, which poses no risk to drinking water.

"This annual report shows customers that they can count on the RWA for high-quality water service, something which has never been more important," said Larry Bingaman, RWA President and CEO. "A reliable, safe water supply is life-sustaining at all times, but particularly now that it is our best resource to combat COVID-19. The RWA is proud to continue fulfilling this important responsibility to the people and communities we serve. We encourage our consumers to read the report so they can learn more about our commitment to provide them with the highest-quality water and how we protect their drinking water sources for generations to come."

The RWA uses a multi-barrier approach to ensuring water quality. This approach focuses on watershed and aquifer management to protect the quality of drinking water sources, treatment of the water prior to consumption, maintenance of the distribution system that delivers water to the tap and monitoring water quality to ensure compliance.

In 2019, the RWA collected more than 10,000 water samples and conducted over 110,000 water quality tests. The RWA collects water samples before the water is treated, during the treatment process and in the distribution system. Water quality samples are tested at the RWA's nationally and state-certified laboratory in New Haven, which stands at the front line of the company's efforts to provide consumers with safe drinking water. The RWA uses advanced technology that can test water samples for minute traces of contaminants and is proud to say its water is of the highest quality.

The RWA sources its waters from 10 active reservoirs and three aquifers. These source waters are located within the 27,000 acres of watershed land that the RWA owns in south central Connecticut. Environmental technicians carefully monitor and manage these lands and all activity that occurs on or around them. This environmental stewardship promotes a healthy ecosystem that helps naturally filter the RWA's water. As a result, the RWA's treatment plants are more efficient purifying the water, allowing the RWA to provide its customers with a high-quality product that is as pure as possible.