

**Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
Via Remote Access
Minutes of May 13, 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, May 13, 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: S. Mongillo and M. Ricozzi
 Authority: S. Sack
 Management: A. Amendola, T. Norris, J. Tracy and J. Triana
 RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Chair Levine called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Chair Levine reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Harvey, and unanimously carried the Committee approved the minutes of its April 8, 2020 meeting.

On motion made by Mr. Horbal, seconded by Mr. Harvey, and unanimously carried the Committee approved the minutes of its April 20, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Amendola, the RWA’s Forester, and Mr. Tracy, the RWA’s Invasive Species Management Technician, provided a discussion of the treatment of Japanese stilt grass on RWA properties, which included:

- Overview and goals
- Methodology
- Control methods
- Conclusions
- Next steps

Chair Levine and committee members thanked Messrs. Amendola and Tracy for the informative discussion.

At 5:05 p.m., Messrs. Amendola and Tracy withdrew from the meeting.

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
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.

There were no other land items to report.

The next regular meeting of the committee is Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

At 5:43 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Mark Levine, Chairman