

**Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
Via Remote Access
Minutes of June 10, 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, June 10, 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. Ricoszi and P. DeSantis
 Authority: D. Borowy
 Management: T. Norris and J. Triana
 RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Chair Levine called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Ms. Young, and unanimously carried the Committee approved the minutes of its May 13, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Triana, RWA’s Real Estate Manager, provided a recreation update, which included:

- Number of permit holders
- Permits from June 2016 to date
- Purchases and renewals
- Revenue

Discussion took place regarding increased surveillance on RWA owned properties, profits, recreation programs for inner city youth, social media and marketing.

At 5:52 p.m., Mr. Borowy entered the meeting.

On motion made by Mr. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Horbal, and unanimously carried, the application for the creation of a new trail on Authority property at Lake Gaillard in North Branford was deemed complete and is recommended to the Representative Policy Board as a Non-substantial Land Use Plan Amendment and does not require a public hearing.

On motion made by Mr. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Malloy, and unanimously carried, the application for the relocation of the Quinnipiac Trail on Authority property in Prospect was deemed complete and is recommended to the Representative Policy Board as a Non-substantial Land Use Plan Amendment and does not require a public hearing.

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
May 31, 2020	96	99	93	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average

May 2020	1.73	6.46	3.93
Fiscal YTD (6/1/19 – 5/31/20)	47.74	63.26	46.58

Land We Need for the Water We Use Program (Dispositions/Acquisitions)

- Cheshire - Corresponded with property owner of 40+/- acres.
- Branford - Corresponded with property owner of 35+/- acres.

DePodesta and Hendrickson properties, Hamden/Bethany – Compiled documents to execute for the Hendrickson property grant. FMA approved resolution to have Ted execute all documents related to the Hendrickson property.

Rental houses:

- Seymour, 59 Rimmon Rd. (SE 11) – Held two pre-bid meetings. Had oil company in to check the furnace.
- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) and 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Zone change application for 233 Skiff St. was submitted to P&Z. Answered email from DPH staff about the application. Public hearing will be in June.

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.
 - Installed deer cages around remaining pitch pine to help with future development.
 - Performed a drone flight at Menunketuc.
 - Captured drone footage for Outreach and Communications staff for use on the RWA facebook page.
 - Inventoried several parcels in Prospect and wrote Qualified Forester’s Reports for each (for PA-490 tax classification purposes).

Recreation

- Recreation permit holders – 5,160.
- Billboard campaign with 20% coupon continued.
- Heavy use at all areas was noticed due to COVID restrictions. Additional signs were added at various sites with issues. This led to record-breaking sales of permits and revenues.
- Recreation staff continued to be stationed at Maltby Lakes and Lake Saltonstall parking lots daily since April 13. This was due to the increased volume of people at the two areas. We are tracking which vehicles are still in the parking lots after dusk.
- Reblazed and cleared several trails at Lake Chamberlain and one at Lake Saltonstall.
- LUP amendments were approved by the FMA for relocating the Quinnipiac Trail in Prospect and creating a new trail from the Harrison Preserve in North Branford.
- Two of the large tagged trout were caught at Maltby this month and gift cards were mailed to anglers.
- All Water Wagon events through June have been cancelled.

Special Activity Permits

- Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies (Mark Bradford, Ph.D.) – Research invasive plant and earthworm, soil nitrogen cycling - Lake Gaillard (5/20/2020 – 10/31/2020)
- Nicholas G. McDonald (Curatorial Affiliate Yale Peabody Museum, Author, Lecturer) – Geology research - Lake Saltonstall and Lake Gaillard (05/21/2020-05/22/2021)

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Agricultural fields – Replied to seven inquiries about using our fields. Wildflower plots – Met with Highstead staff at farm in Ridgefield where they are doing wildflower seed propagation.
 - Bethany, 146 Wooding Hill Rd. (BE 14B) – Sent letter about encroachments.
 - Bethany, 63 Hoadley Rd. (BE 17) – Sent letter about encroachment.
 - Hamden – 49 Maher Ave. (HA 12) – Sent letter about encroachment.
 - Hamden – 20 Washington Ct. (HA 12) – Sent letter about encroachments.
 - Hamden – 66 Washington Rd. (HA 12) – Sent letter about encroachment.
- Invasive plants – Will Henley corresponded with water chestnut vendor. Cut invasives along Saltonstall Ridge, mostly ailanthus. Also cut invasives along trails at Lake Chamberlain.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	~ 160 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	~ 32 acres

- Durham, Vasel driveway – Vasel’s attorney noted that he made contact with the abutter to the north through which the current driveway traverses.
- ATV’s and dirt bikes – Notified by several parties in various locations about ATV and dirt bike use of our property. Met staff from North Branford Land Trust and Branford Land Trust to discuss barriers along Saltonstall ridge. Discussed matter with Police and Operations.
- Deer hunt – Applications mailed to interested hunters. Applications started to come in before the end of the month. Deadline for the applications is June 20.
- North Haven, Clintonville Pump Station (NO 4A) – Spoke to North Haven Land Trust staff about the trail next to our property.
- Lake Chamberlain Wood Turtle study – Supplied information to requestor from New Hampshire about study that took place at Lake Chamberlain from 1974 to 1993.

At 6:10 p.m., Mr. Ricozzi withdrew from the meeting.

There were no other land items to report.

Chair Levine notified members that the July meeting would include the appointment of a new Committee Chair. Any members interested serving should contact him before the next meeting.

The next regular meeting of the committee is Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:20 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Mark Levine, Chairman