

UNAPPROVED DRAFT

**Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
Via Remote Access
Minutes of July 8, 2020 Meeting**

The 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, July 8, 2020. Due to inclement weather, the meeting took place via remote access.

Present: Committee Members: P. Betkoski, P. DeSantis, B. Eitzer, R. Harvey, M. Horbal, M. Levine, G. Malloy, J. Oslander and J. Mowat Young

Authority: D. Borowy
Management: W. Henley, T. Norris, J. Tracy and J. Triana
RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Chair Levine called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He proposed reordering the agenda to move the election of committee chair to the end of the agenda. It was the consensus of the committee to move the election of committee chairperson after Item 6, *Other Land Items*.

Chair Levine reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Eitzer, and unanimously carried the Committee approved the minutes of its June 10, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Henley, RWA’s Source Water Quality Analyst, and Mr. Tracy, RWA’s Invasive Species Management Technician, provided an update on RWA’s Furnace Pond Harvesting, which included:

- Overview of the water chestnut invasive aquatic plant
- Impacts on water quality and recreation program
- Harvesting update and rate of spread
- Project cost and duration
- Drone imagery
- Next steps

Discussion took place regarding disposal and drone cost.

The committee requested a presentation by management of the drone video recording of the water chestnut harvest, before and after, its September 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
June 30, 2020	90	99	88	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
June 2020	2.33	4.56	3.74
Fiscal YTD (6/1/20 – 6/30/20)	2.33	4.56	3.74

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

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

DePodesta and Hendrickson properties, Hamden/Bethany – Executed documents for Hendrickson property and sent to DEEP.

Beers property, Brooksvale Rd., Hamden – Sent another letter of support to Hamden town council to acquire this property.

Rental houses:

- Seymour, 59 Rimmon Rd. (SE 11) – Bid opened. Winning bid was from Kanzler for \$67,000. Asked Murtha staff to contact their attorney.
- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) and 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Zone change application for 233 Skiff St. was approved by P&Z. Repaired roof at Skiff St.

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.
 - Received final report from the UConn researchers.
 - Inventoried RWA forests in Seymour and Madison.
 - Cut tree blocking West River trail.
 - Participated in news segment on ticks and barberry for several news channels at Maltby Lakes.
 - Met with Jeff Ward (Chief Scientist, CAES) at two sites (Seymour/Madison) for experimental natural deer fencing (slash walls) in timber harvests.

Recreation

- Recreation permit holders – 5,435
- Billboard campaign with 20% coupon continued ended in May (May 26), but the bill insert restarted on June 8 and will continue until August 21.
- As COVID restrictions are lifted, we have seen fewer people out at the properties, however there are still more people than in previous June's.
- Worked on plan to re-open boating at Lake Saltonstall. Boat dock has been installed.
- Recreation staff continued to be stationed at Maltby Lakes and Lake Saltonstall parking lots daily since April 13. We have done occasional shifts at Lake Chamberlain which have been beneficial.
- Revoked permits for two people who verbally abused a recreation staff member at Maltby Lakes. By the end of the month, we have been in contact with one of them as they were appealing to be reinstated.
- Reblazed and cleared trails at Lake Chamberlain, Lake Hammonasset, and Genesee.
- LUP amendments were approved by the RPB for relocating the Quinnipiac Trail in Prospect and creating a new trail from the Harrison Preserve in North Branford. License agreements were sent to the CFPA and NBLCT for each trail. Invoices were also mailed out.

Special Activity Permits

- Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, UCONN (Gina Nichol) – survey the lake edge by boat (personal Kayak or canoe) to document any breeding birds along the edge-zebra mussel protocol strictly follow; Lake Saltonstall (06/05/2020 raindate 06/08/2020)

- CT Agricultural Experiment Station (Dr. Claire Rutledge) – research project on two aspects of ash preservation in the presence of Emerald Ash Borer; Lake Gaillard, West St., Mill River, Old Mill Rd. (06/10/2020-09/30/2023)
- 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; (6/25/2020-6/28/2020)
- Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, UCONN (Gina Nichol) – conduct a follow-up survey the lake edge by boat (personal Kayak or canoe) to document any breeding birds along the edge-zebra mussel protocol strictly follow; final date for documenting this species breeding is July 5; Lake Saltonstall (06/22/2020 rain date 06/26/2020)
- Resources in Search and Rescue, Inc.-(Ms. Celeste Robitaille and designees)-Training of Search and RK9 teams to locate lost or missing individuals, RT 42 “Swamp” southeast of RT 42 Bethany; (6/25/2020-6/25/2021).
- C. Thomas Paul – (Permit renewal) Conduct research on American Indian and pre-Columbian culture as related to the Hammonasset Line - Killingworth, Madison and Guilford (6/26/2020-6/26/201).

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Agricultural fields – Signed agreement with Bobby Tanev to hay all the fields in Prospect, Bethany, and Woodbridge. At month’s end, we were waiting for his COI to authorize him to start. Discussed other fields with two potential farmers.
 - Bethany, 54 Wooding Hill Rd. (BE 17) – Sent letter about encroachment.
 - Bethany, 127 Gaylord Mountain Rd. (BE 13A) – Sent letter about encroachments.
 - Bethany, 377 Carrington Rd., (BE 9) – Sent letter about encroachment.
 - Hamden, 4061 Whitney Ave. (HA 19) – Sent letter about encroachments.
 - North Branford, 29 Whispering Hills Dr. (NB 4A) – Sent letter about encroachments.
 - Seymour, 131 Silvermine Rd. (SE 10) – Sent letter about encroachment.
 - Bethany Horsemen – Executed annual agreement.
 - Hamden, Servoss St. – Remarked boundary and repaired fence to prevent trespassers going to Lake Whitney.
- Invasive plants – Cut invasives along Saltonstall Ridge, mostly ailanthus. Also, cut invasives in Bethany, Woodbridge, Hamden, and East Haven. Installed metal mesh on Davis St., as an experiment to reduce the amount of knotweed near the sidewalk.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	~ 10 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	~ 22 acres

- ATV’s and dirt bikes – Continued to work with land trusts regarding ATV and dirt bike trespassers.
- Deer hunt – Deadline for the applications was June 20. There were 184 applicants for 205 spots.
- Simon property dam – Met with Roger and Mary Ellen Simon to discuss how we operate Lake Bethany for the water system since they are planning to work on their dam.
- Milford, Tower St. tank – Replied to question regarding former tank on this site. Supplied photos to requestor.

There were no other land items to report.

Mr. Levine stated the next order of business would be to elect the Land Use Committee Chair for the upcoming year. He reported that one member contacted him with an interest in serving. He asked committee members if anyone else was interested in the position. Upon hearing none, on motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Harvey, and unanimously carried, the committee elected Mr. Betkoski as Committee Chairman for 2020-2021.

Committee members thanked Mr. Levine for his years of leadership and a job well done.

The next regular meeting of the committee is Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:18 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Mark Levine, Chairman