

**Representative Policy Board  
Land Use Committee  
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District**

**Minutes of August 12, 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, August 12, 2020 at Lake Bethany, 200 Hatfield Hill Road, Bethany, Connecticut. Chair Betkoski presided.

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

Authority: K. Curseaden

Management: A. Amendola, R. Gavrilovic, O. Kelly, T. Norris, C. Savory and J. Triana

RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Chair Betkoski 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 Mr. Eitzer, and unanimously carried the Committee approved the minutes of its July 8, 2020 meeting.

The agenda was reordered to accommodate members for a tour of the property.

At 5:35 p.m., Ms. Gavrilovic entered 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
July 31, 2020	83	94	81	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
July 2020	3.27	4.14	3.68
Fiscal YTD (6/1/20 – 7/31/20)	5.60	8.70	7.43

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

Ricci/Moran property, Fenn Rd., Cheshire – The town closed on the property and conveyed a conservation easement to the Authority and the Cheshire Land Trust.

DePodesta and Hendrickson properties, Hamden/Bethany – Submitted additional form to DEEP for the Hendrickson property grant. DEEP asked for the certificate of title/title insurance for the DePodesta property.

Olin Powder Ponds property, Hamden – FMA approved discussions with Hamden Land Conservation Trust to assign the option to buy this property.

#### Rental houses:

- Seymour, 59 Rimmon Rd. (SE 11) – Communicated with winning bidder. Their attorney asked for a mortgage contingency. We declined since it was not part of the bid. Signed P&SA.
- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) and 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Worked on lot split application for Skiff St. Removed trees by the house and garage. Cleaned gutters and roof at Ives 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.
  - CAES asked if they could use part of our property for the Forest Ecosystem Monitoring Cooperative. We agreed.
  - Met Jeff Ward (Chief Scientist, CAES) to install plots for regeneration measurement around the two upcoming slash wall harvests.
  - Door Tree, Hamden – Received the \$750 check from the state that the vandal was required to pay.
  - Completed forest inventories for Nathan’s pond and west of Silvermine Road in Seymour. Met with Operations staff to discuss installation of a tracking pad off of Silvermine Road in Seymour.
  - Assisted Environmental Planning department in transplanting wildflowers to our RWA pollinator gardens.

#### Recreation

- Recreation permit holders – 5,583.
- Bill insert continued and will end on August 21.
- Started renting boats at Lake Saltonstall on July 14.
- Reinstated one of the revoked permits from last month. Talked to another permit holder whose brother has been noted as violating our terms with other people.
- License agreements signed with CFPA and NBLCT for each new trail. Fees were received and deposited.
- Cut back growth along some trails at Sugarloaf.
- Met with North Branford recreation staff about possible walks on our property.
- Dealt with many instances of swimmers in Lake Chamberlain. Conducted additional patrols.

#### Special Activity Permits

- Native Plant Trust (formerly New England Wild Flower Society) – Jessa Finch, Michael Piantedosi survey for a population of a rare plant species, Northern Dropseed (*sporobolus heterolepis*) to see if still present in area, Beaver Head Swamp (Guilford), Totoket Mountain (North Branford), Lake Saltonstall (Branford), Mill Rock (Hamden) (07/14/2020-12/01/2020).
- Connecticut Bird Atlas-Karen Schnitzer, purpose of watching birds in order to gather data for the Connecticut Bird Atlas, Two Cornwall, Prospect, (07/17/20-07/17/21)

- CT Agricultural Experiment Station (Dr. Jeff Ward, et al) - General forestry and wildlife research, tick/Lyme Disease studies - Lake Gaillard, North Madison, Prospect, Seymour, Branford, Madison (07/22/2020 – 07/22/2021)
- UCONN and URI (Gail Reynolds, and designees) – Release biological agent, moth *Hypena opulenta* to help control the population of invasive plants black and pale swallowwort (*Vincetoxicum nigrum* and *V. rossicum*, Lake Gaillard, (7/28/20-7/28/21)

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
  - Agricultural fields – Licensees are having issues obtaining affordable insurance for the fields. Discussed other fields with one potential farmer. Contacted Hammarlund to get signed copy of the new hay agreement.
  - West Haven, Shingle Hill Tank site – WHPD extended agreement to use the site for their radio for another 5 years.
  - West Haven, Burwell Hill Tank site – Corresponded with Comcast about the extension of their ground lease.
  - Cell phone towers – Corresponded with two cell phone company representatives about potential sites.
- Invasive plants – Contractor started harvesting water chestnut at Furnace Pond. Mechanical issues postponed completion of the work by the end of the month. Flew drone to take photos and video of the operation. Met with UConn staff about potential biocontrol of pale swallowwort at Lake Gaillard. Inspected sites in Madison, Prospect, and Bethany for invasives. Cut invasives in East Haven and Bethany. Started second year of the Japanese stilt grass plots with herbicide in Prospect.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	~ 3.75acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	~ 1.5 acres

- Deer hunt – Applications were received and processes so that hunters were assigned areas. Permits this year: North Branford 136, Bethany 25, Prospect 20, Seymour/Ansonia 8.
- Bethany, Simon property dam – Corresponded with contractor for the Simon dam about our operations and their work.
- Bethany, Green Haven/Rocky Corner development – Assisted CP&D with research in agreements and easements that are similar to this matter.
- Madison, Poole Rd. – Halloran reported that the down moved the boulders/rocks back to the road.
- Orange, Racebook Rd. – Land owner asked about the nature of the easement we have over their property. Spoke to them about the tunnel. They were interested in responsibility for trees.

Ted Norris, RWA’s Vice President of Asset Management, provided information on the Olin property in Hamden. He reported that the Hamden Land Conservation Trust (HLCT) is interested in obtaining an option, owned by the RWA, to ensure that the land will continue to be held as open space. He discussed the historical background, agreement details, condition of the property, and RWA’s position. Next steps would include a memorandum of understanding with HLCT to discuss the requirements.

Mr. Norris also provided an update on tree clearing on RWA property along Whitney Avenue. He met with the United Illuminating Company to view marked trees for clearing. After discussions, the

RWA and UI came to a compromise to ensure that a low grade amount of brush would be cleared in the area.

At 6:10 p.m., Mr. Kelly entered the meeting.

Mr. Amendola, the RWA's Forester, provide an update on a timber harvest project at Lake Bethany, which included:

- Historical background
- Trees planted (European Larch)
- Age of trees
- Thinning process
- Goals
- Benefits
- Next steps



Ms. Gavrilovic, the RWA's Director of Capital Planning and Delivery, introduced Mr. Savoy, an RWA's Project Engineer, who provided an update on the drainage project at the dam on Hatfield Hill Road in Bethany, which included:

- System design
- Issues
- Age and depth of dam
- Inspections
- Timing of project



At 6:25 p.m., Mr. Levine withdrew from the meeting.

There were no other land items to report.

The next regular meeting of the committee is Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

At 6:27 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

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Peter Betkoski, Chairman