

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

Minutes of September 9, 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, September 9, 2020 at the Lake Whitney Water Treatment Plant, 900 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, 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: D. Borowy

Management: T. Norris, J. Tracy, J. Triana, and A. Velasquez

Resident Bee Keeper: V. Kay

RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Chair Betkoski called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. He 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 August 12, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Kay, RWA’s resident bee keeper, provided a discussion on the care and maintenance of bees and beehives and their contribution to the environment. He also reported that he currently manages 500 hives located in in Bethany, Woodbridge and Madison, a quarter of which are located on RWA property. Four of the hives that were onsite at the meeting harvested 400 lbs. of honey. Committee members toured the hives at the end of the meeting.

At 4:40 p.m., Mr. Levine entered the meeting.

Mr. Norris, the RWA’s Vice President of Asset Management, and Ms. Velasquez, RWA’s Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Lead, provided an update on modifications to the Procedure for Future Renewable Economic Resource Projects (“Project”). Mr. Norris stated that revisions were necessary to provide for clarity, as well as include language for de minimis projects on parcels less than ½ an acre or on rooftops, which would no longer require RPB approval. Ms. Velasquez reported that the process was first developed in 2011 and included an initial meeting between management, town officials, and the RPB representative of the designated town. Mr. Norris reported that such meetings, where the LUC was hearing about the project for the first time, presented potential ex parte communication issues and is one reason that the current procedure needed to be revised. As such, under the revised procedure management would first meet with the Land Use Committee for its concurrence on a Project. If the LUC concurred with the project, management would proceed with town official meetings.

Ms. Norris stated that the following modifications are proposed to be made in the revised procedure:

- Name Change
- Added a de minimis category
- Presentation to Land Use Committee prior to meeting with town officials
- Language for roadblocks
- Clarifications of management’s process

After discussion, it was the consensus of the committee to authorize management to move forward with the changes as presented. Next steps will include a presentation to the Authority at 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
August 31, 2020	75	87	74	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
August 2020	2.84	4.03	3.98
Fiscal YTD (6/1/20 – 8/31/20)	8.44	12.73	11.40

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

Hamden/Bethany, DePodesta and Hendrickson properties – Sent conservation easements for the Hendrickson property to both towns to be filed on the land records. Forwarded the Certificate of Title for the DePodesta property to DEEP. Responded to several questions they had.

Branford, Todd’s Hill Rd development – Attorney for developer informed us that the owner will be donating the open space land to the Branford Land Trust.

Rental houses:

- Seymour, 59 Rimmon Rd. (SE 11) – Met buyers with their mortgage inspector to check out the house.
- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) and 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Submitted application for lot split at Skiff St. Hamden Engineer had comments on the application.
- Orange, 499 Derby Ave. – Reviewed plans to convert the garage to a larger living space. We rejected the proposal.
- Madison, 760 Summer Hill Rd. – Spoke to owner about new shed that was on the property.

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.
 - Marked timber harvests in two different areas; Seymour and Madison.
 - Coordinated with Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) to delineate and mark slash wall harvests and plots to monitor regeneration.
 - Worked with CAES to mark their current silvicultural experiment plots at Nathan’s Pond (a 30+ year study).
 - Interviewed by multiple news crews about the storm damage (wind/salt) of tropical storm Isaias.

Recreation

- Recreation permit holders – 5,615.

- Bill insert ended on August 21.
- Boating continued at Lake Saltonstall with only one refusal to wear a mask due to religious objections.
- Held first walk since COVID period started. Nine people attended botany walk at Dudley Pond on August 15th.
- Had repeated problems with people vandalizing the lock and gate at Maltby Lakes.
- Spent much time cutting and removing trees from a tropical storm on August 4th and a tornado on August 27th.
- Reblazed white trails at Pine Hill.

Special Activity Permits

- Milford Police Department (Lieutenant Luke Holder and designees) – Police dive training, Maltby Lakes, (8/17/20)
- 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).

REVISION: A professor from the University of Washington may come to RI and CT on September 4th – September 11th, Dr. Jim Feathers who has an Optically Simulated Luminescence lab at the school. The test is to determine how long a rock or soil has been out of the sun light. A stone sample is taken 1” in OD about an inch down. A soil sample is taken a few inches down, about 7 oz. in size. The sample or samples (1 or 2 samples) will be taken on the Hammonasset Line in Madison.

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Agricultural fields – Executed license agreement with Urbano for use of the Sperry Rd. field for Christmas trees. Tanev supplied his certificate of insurance to hay the fields in Prospect, Bethany, and Woodbridge. Discussed other fields with three potential farmers.
 - Hamden, Skiff St. – Sent draft agreement to neighbor to potentially park his employees’ vehicles at the house.
 - North Haven, Davis Rd. (NO 9A) – Issued letter to abutter about pet grave on our property.
- Invasive plants – Contractor completed harvesting water chestnut in Furnace Pond. Established second hardware cloth plot for Japanese knotweed in the West River area. Collected more data on herbicide plots in Prospect. Treated invasives in Bethany and East Haven. Conducted drone flights at Furnace Pond and Lake Menunketuc.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	~1.5 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	~5 acres

- Deer hunt – Check station volunteers were selected and contacted.
- Durham, Vasel driveway easement – Corresponded with Vasel’s attorney about settling the matter of the driveway easement.
- Land Use Plan – Worked with Communications staff to post the Land Use Plan amendments online with the full plan.

There were no other land items to report.

Assignments were made for the next quarter Authority meetings.

The next regular meeting of the committee is Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

At 5:19 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Peter Betkoski, Chairman