

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

Minutes of October 14, 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, October 14, 2020 at Lake Saltonstall, 100 Hosley Avenue, Branford, Connecticut. Chair Betkoski presided.

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

Authority: S. Sack
 Management: T. Norris and J. Triana
 RPB: C. Havrda
 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. Eitzer, and unanimously carried the Committee approved the minutes of its September 9, 2020 meeting.

On motion made by Mr. Eitzer, seconded by Mr. Horbal, and unanimously carried, the application for the modification of the current procedure for future renewable economic resource projects 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.

Mr. Triana, the RWA’s Real Estate Manager, led a discussion about the history of Lake Saltonstall. He also provided an update of the RWA’s recreation program. Currently, Lake Saltonstall is open for recreation activities such as fishing, hiking and mountain biking. Mr. Triana reported that there are currently 5,711 permittees registered in the program, which is approximately 2,000 more than last year. In September of 2020, 271 permits were sold, compared to 147 last September. He stated that the increase in permits was largely due to the COVID pandemic and the on-site point of sales offered to walk-ins.

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
September 30, 2020	68	81	68	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
September 2020	2.99	2.08	3.77
Fiscal YTD (6/1/20 – 9/30/20)	11.43	14.81	15.17

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

- Killingworth - Corresponded with property owner of 25+/- acres.

Hamden/Bethany, DePodesta and Hendrickson properties – Received the grant check for the Hendrickson property. Continued to correspond with DEEP about materials needed to complete the DePodesta grant.

Rental houses:

- Seymour, 59 Rimmon Rd. (SE 11) – Granted buyers an extension for the closing into mid-October
- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) and 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Continued to discuss survey with Hamden town staff for lot split.
- Madison, 760 Summer Hill Rd. – Approved new shed and concrete pads for generator and propane tank.

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.
 - Coordinated with Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) to delineate and mark slash wall harvests and plots to monitor regeneration.
 - Coordinated with NRCS Soil Scientists to increase the scope of the CAES’s experimental silviculture plots in Madison. This will not only allow us to study forest composition through different forest management prescriptions, but also allow us to assess and document any changes in soil health or composition underneath the canopy.
 - Worked with contractor for the purposes of salvaging the storm damaged material at Lake Bethany (in addition to clearing the road and trails).

Recreation

- Recreation permit holders – 5,711
- Boating continued at Lake Saltonstall with only one refusal to wear a mask due to religious objections.
- Held butterfly walk at Lake Gaillard with 11 participants.
- Started scavenger hunt activity that will conclude at the end of November.
- Continued cutting and removing trees from a tornado on August 27th. Needed outside contractor to clear the Lake Bethany trails.
- Received corrected DPH permit for the Genesee area activities.
- Lake Chamberlain golf cart access – Denied request from permit holder to allow access to family member to get to Lake Chamberlain dam by golf cart.

Special Activity Permits

- Chris Sullivan, PhD Student, UCONN- Will be taking tissue (using non-lethal biopsy punches) from the 15 bass to evaluate mercury contamination, Lake Saltonstall, (9/24/20)
- Southern Connecticut State University (Michael J. Maloney)-looking to set mesh minnow traps in several ponds in Madison, transport the wood frogs that swim into

the traps to the lab in New Haven for tests (strength, jump distance, etc.) then return the frogs to the ponds where they came from, Rt. 79 north of the traffic circle and Summer Hill Road, (09/23/2020-09/23/2021).

- State of CT Cross Connection Committee (Adam Pandolfi) – State of Connecticut Cross Connection Committee Meeting; Lake Gaillard; (09/30/20)

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Agricultural fields – Discussed a field with a potential farmer. Singed hay agreement with Hammarlund’s.
 - Bethany, Downs Rd. cul-du-sac (BE 17) – Extended license agreement for Bethany to keep the cul-du-sac at the end of Downs Rd.
 - Bethany, 81 Litchfield Tpk. (BE 26) – Sent letter about yard debris.
 - Bethany, 250 Wooding Hill Rd. (BE 14) – Sent letter about yard debris.
 - Bethany, 254 Wooding Hill Rd. (BE 14) – Sent letter about yard debris.
 - Hamden, 62 Washington Rd. – (HA 12) - Sent letter about yard debris.
 - Hamden, 41 Maher Ave. (HA 12) – Sent letter about fence over the line.
 - Madison, 21 Hathaway La. (MA 6) – Sent letter about yard debris.
 - Madison, 49 Hathaway La. (MA 6) – Sent letter about deer feeder and targets.
 - Woodbridge, 43 Morris Rd. (WO 6) – Sent letter about yard debris.
 - North Branford, 229 Forest Rd. (NB 17) – Alerted to large encroachment by neighbor. Documenting the extent of the encroachment by month’s end.
- Invasive plants – Treated invasives in East Haven and Seymour. Collected data at the herbicide plots in Prospect. Recorded videos for Outreach and Communications staff to use online.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	~2.3 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	~2.4 acres

- Deer hunt – Permits were mailed to hunters.
- Branford, Hilltop Rd. (BR 6) – Branford Land Trust staff said that trees were blocking access to the road so they were deferring the installation of the gate until the trees are removed.

Chair Betkoski acknowledged the RWA’s recent award from the Metropolitan Water Agencies for its Sustainable Water Utility Management. Mr. Norris, RWA’s Vice President of Asset Management, was part of a team who completed the award application.

There were no other land items to report.

The next regular meeting of the committee is Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

At 5:33 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Peter Betkoski, Chairman