

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

Minutes of December 9, 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, December 9, 2020 via remote access. 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: W. Henley, T. Norris, J. Tracy, 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. Horbal, seconded by Mr. Harvey, and unanimously carried the Committee approved the minutes of its November 18, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Henley, the RWA’s Aquatic Resource Scientist, and Mr. Tracy, the RWA’s Invasive Species Management Technician, provided a presentation on the Water Chestnut Infestation and Harvest at Furnace Pond, which included:

- History of the Water Chestnut
- Pre and Post Harvest
- Prevention
- Summer 2020 Harvest
- Equipment
- Disposal
- Monitoring
- Future and Drone Mapping Initiatives
- Project Costs

Discussion took place regarding effects on water quality and climate change, remaining water chestnuts, drone imagery, length of time to harvest, possible results of no action, effect on taste, odor and aquatic life, and public communications.

Mr. Triana, the RWA’s Real Estate Manager, acknowledged the efforts of the operations division at the RWA, which was a crucial part of the Water Chestnut Harvest Project.

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
November 30, 2020	67	79	66	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
November 2020	5.20	1.34	3.96
Fiscal YTD (6/1/20 – 11/30/20)	20.85	23.91	22.99

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 – Had conference call with DEEP and Murtha about the DePodesta survey and title work. Original easements for Hendrickson sent to DEEP. Signed the agreement and easement for DePodesta and forwarded to DEEP.

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) – House and lot were sold. Property boundaries marked. Working with new owners to transfer the street light.
- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) and 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Town staff (engineer) would not sign off on the lot split application/map even though we met all the criteria. He contends that there were a taking for the bridge, but it never occurred. Emailed Murtha questions about the process here.
- Woodbridge, 1029 Johnson Rd. – Corresponded with parties who were contacted by the Tarlowski's.

Forestry Update

- Guilford – West of Sugar Loaf ash salvage (GU 4) – 40% complete
 - North Branford - Beech Street Softwood (NB 4) – **90% 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.
- Showed and awarded timber sale in Madison Peter Marlowe Forest Products.
 - Managed hazard tree issues on our property, both from the public and facilities department.
 - In conjunction with CAES and NRCS, led Yale School of Forestry master's students on a tour of our newest timber harvest and explained the silvicultural prescription and background of the harvest.
 - Worked to get a landclearing contractor to aid facilities and engineering at Farm River-EH.
 - Ordered several species of trees for reforestation and pollinator garden purposes.

Recreation

- Fishing season ended.
- Operations staff cleared downed trees at Hammonasset.
- Operations repaired the fence by the Maltby entrance after a car accident.
- Led bird walk at Lake Hammonasset with the New Haven Bird Club. 25 people attended.
- Scavenger Hunt concluded with 7 entries.
- CFPA provided map of the Quinnipiac Trail relocation in Prospect.

	November		October	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Permit Holders	5,879	3,785	5,758	3,812

Special Activity Permits

- McLaren Engineering Group (Craig Plate) – Perform a routine and underwater inspection at Whitney Avenue Bridge (SR707) over Lake Whitney; contracted by CTDOT to perform the inspection; (11/18/2020)

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Agricultural fields – Discussed fields with three potential farmers.
 - North Branford, 229 Forest Rd. (NB 17) – Police hand-delivered letter and set time to meet abutters at the property.
 - Guilford, Wilbur’s Lane (GU 3) – Notified by Guilford Land Trust members of potential encroachment coming from Taylor Lane.
- Invasive plants – Treated invasives in Woodbridge, and Bethany. Documented invasive populations in Bethany and Killingworth.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	~2.42 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	~1.88 acres

- Deer hunt – Hunt concluded on November 30. Harvest results below.

Deer Harvested	Bucks	Does	Total
Prospect	2	5	7
Bethany	0	3	3
Seymour	1	0	1
North Branford	16	18	34
			45

- Cell phone antennas – Agreed to increase of revenue from Rabbit Rock tank antenna replacement.
- Comcast lease, Burwell Tank site – Received counter proposal from Comcast about second amendment to lease. Rejected and resent our first counter proposal.
- Regional Conservation Partnership – Held zoom meeting about pollinator pathways with 30 attendees.
- South Cheshire Wellfield storm sewer – Met with Cheshire staff to discuss possible work on and expansion of the existing storm sewer outlet. Researched easement and sent information back to town staff.
- Hamden, New Haven Country Club – Corresponded with surveyor working with the NHCC and supplied maps that we have on file.
- Madison, Old Toll Rd. – Corresponded with neighbor about condition of the road into the Cedar Swamp area.
- Hamden, Spruce Bank Rd. sluice gate – Investigated report of possible vandalism to the old sluice gate related to the race that powered an old mill. Did not find any evidence of vandalism or an accident. Seems to have deteriorated and fallen out of the base.
- Lake Whitney dam work – Assisted CP&D with plans to access the east side of the dam through East Rock Park.

Mr. Triana reported that the RWA sold approximately 93 Christmas trees at the Lake Gaillard cut your own tree event held on December 5th and 6th.

Chair Betkoski reported that the joint meeting with the Consumer Affairs Committee to review management's FY 2022 proposed budget is scheduled for April 19, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Chair Betkoski reported on the volunteer to attend the Authority meeting on December 17, 2020.

The next regular meeting of the committee is Wednesday, January 13, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:35 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Peter Betkoski, Chairman