

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

Minutes of January 13, 2021 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, January 13, 2021 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: T. Norris and J. Triana
 RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Chair Betkoski called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Levine, and unanimously carried the Committee approved the minutes of its December 9, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Triana, the RWA’s Real Estate Manager, provided a review of the 5th Anniversary of the Land Use Plan. He discussed the historical background and timeline of events leading up to the development of the Land Use Plan (“Plan” or “LUP”) beginning in 1977, with the requirements of the Enabling Legislation, up to the last amendment in 2016. He reviewed the current Plan, which included:

- Overview
- System Plans
- Water System Land
- Recreation and Education
- Natural Resources
- Non-water and Water System Land
- Philosophy
- Acquired land

Mr. Triana reported that have been six amendments to the plan since 2016, which will be included in the next LUP amendment.

Discussion took place regarding requirements for filing and public information.

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
December 31, 2020	81	85	72	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
December 2020	4.25	7.16	4.11
Fiscal YTD (6/1/20 – 12/31/20)	25.10	31.07	27.10

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

- [nothing to report]

Hamden/Bethany, DePodesta and Hendrickson properties – Re-executed the agreement and easement for the DePodesta property grant.

Hamden, Olin property option – Held conference call with Murtha staff regarding this matter.

Rental houses:

- Seymour, 59 Rimmon Rd. (SE 11) – Received reval notice update and forwarded it to new property owner.
- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) and 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Discussed issue of condemnation with our attorneys. They will contact the town attorney.

Forestry Update

- Guilford – West of Sugar Loaf ash salvage (GU 4) – 40% complete
- North Branford - Beech Street Softwood (NB 4) – **95% 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) – **85% complete.**
- **Madison - Nathan’s Pond Slash Wall Harvest (MA 5) – Contract awarded Will likely start in February.**
- **Seymour - Silvermine Road Slash Wall Harvest (SE 9) - Contract not awarded yet. Out to bid.**
 - Met with Environmental Planning staff and worked on the plan for the pollinator garden at 90 Sargent Drive.
 - Met with several contractors for hazard tree work.
 - Cut Cedar trees in the field on Sperry Road in Woodbridge.

Recreation

- Discussed mountain bike possibilities with Madison staff.
- Discussed possible trail between Hammonasset and Genesee areas with Madison staff.
- Held Christmas tree cutting days at Lake Gaillard. Harvested 91 trees.
- Reviewed possible fishing trails at Lake Chamberlain.
- Cleared downed trees from trails south of Lake Bethany.

	December		November	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Permit Holders	6,016	3,761	5,879	3,785

Special Activity Permits

- New Haven Bird Club (Chris Loscalzo) - Annual Christmas Bird Count survey - Saltonstall, Whitney, Wepawaug, Maltby, Dawson, Glen, Chamberlain, Watrous – (12/19/2020).
- Christopher Loscalzo (at request of CTDEEP) - Annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey - Lakes Saltonstall and Gaillard – (1/9/2021).
- Jon Petersen – NEMBA - Walking the land to layout new trails, Genesee Recreation Area (12/8/20-12/8/21)

- New Haven Bird Club (Patrick T. Leahy) – Maintain and monitor bluebird nesting boxes on 7 sites – Downes Road, Bethany, adjacent to Lake Bethany property and field below Lake Dawson dam, Woodbridge, farm field on Sperry Road and Lake Chamberlain below the dam, Lake Watrous and other properties – 1/1/21–12/31/21.

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Agricultural fields – Discussed a fields with two potential farmers.
 - North Branford, 229 Forest Rd. (NB 17) – Met with abutter. Coordinated surveyor to set two pins to verify the property line.
 - Guilford, Wilbur’s Lane (GU 3) – Guilford Land Trust members contacted the abutter to address encroachment.
 - North Haven, Old Maple Ave. (NO 5) – Contacted by new property owner who stated he gave previous property owner two months to remove items.
 - Killingworth, Bunker Hill Rd. (KI 9A) – Found encroachment of abutter using property by field.
 - Bethany, Hoadley Rd. (BE 18) – Found encroachment where abutter created ditch over property line.
- Invasive plants – Documented invasive populations in Seymour. Gave a talk regarding the use of drones to monitor populations of invasive species, specifically the water chestnut harvest to Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	~0.25 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	0.0 acres

- Deer hunt – Post-hunt surveys were distributed. Some have been returned.
- Farm River-EH dredging – Helped Operations prepare for dredging operation of the impoundment.
- Lake Whitney dam work – Continued to assist CP&D with plans to access the east side of the dam through East Rock Park. Received letter of estimated value of the temporary and permanent easements in East Rock Park. Forwarded that to CP&D.
- Lake Dawson dam work – Assisted CP&D with planning for work on the Lake Dawson spillway.

There were no other land items to report.

Chair Betkoski reported on the volunteer to attend the Authority meeting on January 21, 2021.

The next regular meeting of the committee is Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:14 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

Peter Betkoski, Chairman