

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

**Minutes of February 10, 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, February 10, 2021 via remote access. Chair Betkoski presided.

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

Authority: S. Sack

Management: T. Norris and J. Triana

RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Chair Betkoski called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Mr. Eitzer, seconded by Mr. Horbal, and unanimously carried the Committee approved the minutes of its January 13, 2021 meeting.

Mr. Triana, the RWA’s Real Estate Manager, provided an overview of historic areas of the Land Use Plan by town, which included:

- North Branford
- Lake Saltonstall area
- Lake Whitney Systems
- West River
- Maltby Lakes
- Prospect
- Birmingham Utilities area
- North Cheshire Wellfield area

Discussion took place regarding RWA’s cost of existing structures and a possible trip to Eli Whitney Museum.

Mr. Triana reported that the next Land Use Plan Amendment will include locations of historical significance.

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
January 31, 2021	85	88	77	None

**Rainfall (inches)**

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
January 2021	1.23	1.97	3.59
Fiscal YTD (6/1/20 – 1/31/21)	26.33	33.04	30.69

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

- [nothing to report]

Hamden/Bethany, DePodesta and Hendrickson properties – Received the check for the DePodesta property. Posted required OSWLA signs at both the properties.

Hamden, Olin property option – Corresponded with HLCT on this matter. Received letter from Save the Sound and other organizations requesting a meeting about this matter.

#### Rental houses:

- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) and 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Hamden town attorneys agreed that condemnation would be the way to go. Said it could take months. Requested to bifurcate the disposition applications.

#### Forestry Update

- Guilford – West of Sugar Loaf ash salvage (GU 4) – 40% complete
- North Branford - Beech Street Softwood (NB 4) – **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) – **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) – **Awarded contract. Likely start this winter.**
  - Gave out two new maple tapping permits.
  - Met with Jeff Ward (Chief Scientist, CAES) to discuss new study involving white oak saplings in Bethany.
  - Documented encroachments on several parcels.
  - Removed cedar trees from Sperry Road field for licensee & for future boundary posts.

#### Recreation

- Discussed mountain bike possibilities with people from Madison at Genesee.
- Held bird walk at Lake Bethany with 5 people.
- Reviewed possible fishing trails at Lake Chamberlain with environmental consultant.
- Checked part of Quinnipiac Trail with CFPA staff about drainage improvements.
- Submitted annual report to DPH.
- Posted notice of openings for recreation staff and started receiving and reviewing applications.
- Discussed possible relocation of Mattabesset Trail onto RWA property south of Poole Rd. in Madison.

	January		December	
	2021	2020	2020	2019
Permit Holders	6,129	3,762	6,016	3,761

#### Special Activity Permits

- U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (Raymond Putnam)-walk the unnamed tributary to Farm River, hand excavate 20-inch test pits, fill after recording data. Take photos of abutting property. (Working on gaining access to abutting property; investigating possible wetland violations), 1739, 1744 and 1778 Middletown Avenue, North Branford, (01/06/21-12/31/21)

- CONSOR Engineering (Michael Balboni) – Perform a routine and underwater inspection of the Waite Street Bridge over Lake Whitney; (1/26/21-2/23/21)-date of 2/9/21.
- UConn, Dept of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (Dr. Mark Urban) – Research on pond amphibians - Totoket mountain in Northford; ridge north of Lake Gaillard; 60 ponds distributed to the west and east of Big Gulph Brook (3/1/2021 - 3/1/2022)

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
  - Agricultural fields – Discussed two fields with potential farmers. Sent draft agreements to Potter for taking over three hayfields from Bozzuto. Approved request from Urbano to apply lime and fertilizer to the Sperry Rd. field.
  - North Branford, Sol's Path field (NB 4) – Executed license agreement with couple to use field for Christmas trees.
  - North Branford, 229 Forest Rd. (NB 17) – Surveyor found and set pins. Met with abutter. Sent draft agreement for them to review.
  - Killingworth, Bunker Hill Rd. (KI 9A) – Sent letter about one of the buildings in the easement and removing boat in pond. Offered license agreement for use of portion of field.
  - Bethany, Hoadley Rd. (BE 18) – Sent letter about ditch that crosses the property line.
  - Madison, Suffolk Dr. (MA 12) – Sent letter about fence over the line that was originally found in 2003.
- Invasive plants – Documented and treated invasive populations in Killingworth, North Branford, Hamden, Bethany and Woodbridge. This included using a contractor to mow about a half acre at one of the sediment detention ponds by Lake Whitney. Spoke to Chris Ozyck from Yale's URI program about using them as contractors for hand pulling and cutting of invasives. Worked on grant from state regarding aquatic invasive plant management.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	29.70 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	~26 acres

- Deer hunt – Final hunter surveys received. Submitted annual report to DPH. Renewal of permit submitted to DPH
- East Haven, 196 Beach Ave. – Murtha staff will initiate a title report for the area to understand our easements.
- Branford, Parish Farm Rd. – Contacted by Branford Engineering Dept. about possibility of easement for sanitary sewer extension to address issues with septic systems in the area.
- North Branford recreation dept. – Corresponded with NB Recreation staff and set date to lead walk for them.

Mr. Norris, the RWA's Vice President of Asset Management, provided an update on the Derby Tank project.

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

At 6:36 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

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Peter Betkoski, Chairman