

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

**Minutes of March 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, March 10, 2021 via remote access. 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: A. DiSalvo  
 Eli Whitey Museum: W. Brown and R. Paxton  
 Management: T. Norris and J. Triana  
 RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Chair Betkoski called the meeting to order at 5:34 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 February 10, 2021 meeting.

Mr. Triana, the RWA’s Real Estate Manager, introduced Messrs. Brown, Director Emeritus, and Paxton, Director, of the Eli Whitney Museum who provided an overview of the educational activities of the Museum, which included:

- Historical background
- Evolution of public health
- Educational outreach program in the state
- Experimental water learning lab
- On-site projects
- Employees
- Apprentice programs and student employees
- Bird migration

Discussion took place regarding number of projects per year, inner city reach, project funding and contributions, challenges and needs, and staff.

Mr. Triana reported that the committee would like to arrange for the committee to hold a meeting at the museum in the summer when social distancing restrictions are relaxed.

At 6:09 p.m., Messrs. Brown and Paxton withdrew from the 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 |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|
| February 28, 2021 | 89           | 92            | 82                 | None           |

Rainfall (inches)

|                               | Current Year | Previous Year | Historical Average |
|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|
| February 2021                 | 3.83         | 3.24          | 3.34               |
| Fiscal YTD (6/1/20 – 2/28/21) | 30.16        | 36.28         | 34.03              |

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

- Durham - Corresponded with property owner of 16+/- acres.
- Madison – Corresponded with a property owner of 19+/- acres.

Hamden, DePodesta property (HA 38) – Submitted easement to file on the Hamden land records.

Cheshire, Ricci property – State announced that the town received the OSWLA grant and we will receive a portion of the award.

Hamden, Olin property option – Met with town council member, HLCT, and Save the Sound staff. Determined we could transfer the option without impacting any plans of the town.

North Branford, Beech St. and Poms La. parcels – Contacted by party potentially interested in buying the parcels.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) and 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Decided to bifurcate the two applications. Sent draft of the Ives St. house disposition to Ted for his review.

Forestry Update

- Guilford – West of Sugar Loaf ash salvage (GU 4) – 40% complete
- Killingworth - East Hammonasset Leaf Screen Thinning, (KI 4) - Contract not yet awarded.
- Hamden - Overstory removal and Tornado Salvage, (HA 36) – Not started yet. **Logger awarded contract experiencing health issues.**
- Madison - Nathan’s Pond Slash Wall Harvest (MA 5) – Contract awarded. Not started yet.
- Seymour - Silvermine Road Slash Wall Harvest (SE 9) – Awarded contract. Not started yet.
  - Started inventories for harvests coming up this year.
  - Attended digital meeting with West Point Military Academy’s Forestry Department. Discussed our timber harvesting, specifically slash wall deer exclosures.
  - Modified the firewood permit renewal system, and completed mailing of renewal paperwork to permit holders.

Recreation

- Mounted new “no horses” signs at Lake Chamberlain dam.
- Sent change-in-use application to DPH for Lake Chamberlain fishing trails. Received final preliminary assessment for the project. Attended Bethany inland wetlands meeting about the project.
- Discussed possible capstone project for Quinnipiac students to plan a trail along the Mill River.
- Hike for Sugarloaf was moved to Lake Saltonstall due to deep snow. Ten people attended.
- Received and organized photos for the photo contest.
- Five interviews were held with potential recreation staff members. Three have been offered the position.

|                | February |       | January |       |
|----------------|----------|-------|---------|-------|
|                | 2021     | 2020  | 2021    | 2020  |
| Permit Holders | 6,131    | 3,780 | 6,129   | 3,762 |

\* - Although the overall number of permits continued to increase for the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive month due to COVID restrictions, this is the first time since Dec. 2019 that the number of permits bought was less than same month of the previous year.

Special Activity Permits

- A. DiCesare Associates (Clay Carlson) - I-95 bridge inspection for CTDOT – Lake Saltonstall, East Haven (2/9/2021 & 2/10/2021)-cancelled by CTDOT- will reschedule
- Yale University School of the Environment- (Dr. Craig R. Brodersen) - Field trips in field botany and forestry. - North Madison Cedar Swamp off of Rt. 80, 2/10/2021 - 5/31/2021 (actual use Spring Semester 2021)
- Hamden Fire Department (Richard Lennon) – to conduct annual cold water rescue training – Clark’s Pond, Hamden – 2/12/21 – 3/31/21
- Branford Parks & Open Space Authority (Richard Shanahan) – to scout out a potential suitable route for possible future relocation of a portion of the Branford Trail, West of Brushy Plain Road, east of Lake Saltonstall, north of Lidyhites Pond, Branford – 3/1/21 – 5/31/21
- Allingtown Fire Department (Deputy Chief Michael Esposito) – cold water rescue training, Maltby Lakes, West Haven – 2/22/21 – 2/26/21
- Northeast Work & Safety Boats, LLC (Jack Casey) – to conduct bridge inspection at Lake Saltonstall – 2/26/21 – 3/12/21
- A. DiCesare Associates (Clay Carlson) - I-95 bridge inspection for CTDOT – Lake Saltonstall, East Haven (3/3/2021 & 3/4/2021)-rescheduled to these dates

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
  - Agricultural fields – Discussed fields with seven potential farmers. Received signature pages and check for Guilford fields from Potter, but did not include a COI.
  - Killingworth, Bunker Hill Rd. (KI 9A) – Spoke to Lally on the phone. Sent draft license agreement.
  - Seymour, 8 Jefferson Rd. (SE 1) – Corresponded with Lupoli to either pay the fee or remove the encroachment, else we will move the fence to the property line in June.
  - Killingworth, Rt. 148 (KI 3 and KI 3A) – Discovered encroachments from abutters from property.
  - North Branford, Beech St. (NB 4A) – Emailed Gaudio to move vehicles which he did by the end of the month.
- Invasive plants – Cut and documented invasive plants in Bethany, North Branford, and Branford. Submitted application to state regarding aquatic invasive plant management.

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac) | ~26 acres |
| Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)         | ~25 acres |

- Deer hunt – DPH issued permit for all areas covering the next 10 years.
- East Haven, Beach Ave. – Title searcher is having problems since the town hall has not been open. Have only been able to access what is online.
- Regional Conservation Partnership – Held steering committee meeting. Contacted potential speakers for zoom meetings.
- Branford, Queach Rd. gate – Corresponded with Branford Land Trust staff about gate that was installed on the road. We will wait to put our lock out after the gate is painted.
- Hamden, LWWTP campus – Corresponded with two girl scouts about placing bat boxes at the LWWTP property.

- North Branford, path through Northford properties – Discussed possibility of a trail or path through Northford properties by the Farm River with Andy Bozzuto.
- Derby Tank – Reviewed the draft lease for the tank site and sent comments to CP&D.

There were no other land items to report.

The next regular meeting of the committee is Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

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

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Peter Betkoski, Chairman