

**Representative Policy Board  
Land Use Committee  
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District  
Location: 257 Fenn Road, Cheshire**

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**AGENDA**

**Regular Meeting of Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.**

1. Safety Moment
2. Approval of Minutes – April 14, 2021 and April 19, 2021 meetings
3. Update on 257 Fenn Road, Cheshire (Ricci Property)
4. Updates on other land and RWA properties, including invasive species update
5. Other Land items
6. Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.
7. Adjourn

**\*\*** In order to comply with social distancing requirements, the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority is asking attendees to remain outdoors, keep a 6' distance and wear masks or face coverings. Driving together to the meeting is not encouraged.

In the event of rain, the meeting will be held remotely. For information on attending the meeting, via remote access and to view meeting documents, please visit <https://www.rwater.com/about-us/our-boards/board-meetings-minutes?year=2021&category=1435&meettype=&page=>. For questions, contact the board office at [jslubowski@rwater.com](mailto:jslubowski@rwater.com) or call 203-401-2515.

IN THE EVENT OF RAIN, THE MEETING BE HELD REMOTELY. BELOW IS THE INFORMATION TO ATTEND VIA CONFERENCE CALL. PLEASE CONTACT JENNIFER SLUBOWSKI AT THE BOARD OFFICE AT 203-401-2515 WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

**Topic: RPB Land Use Committee Meeting**

Time: May 12, 2021 04:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting (*via conference call*)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

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Meeting ID: 841 8324 7718

Passcode: 175430

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kfQwEFpzb>

# SAFETY MOMENT

## HEAT SAFETY TIPS

Summer is the season for working and playing outdoors. It's also the time to emphasize the importance of preventing and treating heat-related illness.

The common denominator of heat illness prevention is: **Water, Rest, Shade**. Getting plenty of all three when outdoors is the best way to beat the heat and stay out of trouble.

### Heat Safety Tips:

- Stay hydrated throughout the day by drinking water steadily; don't wait until you're thirsty.
- Avoid caffeine and alcohol which cause us to lose water more rapidly.
- Take frequent breaks in the shade or indoors in an air conditioned space.
- Wear loose fitting, lightly colored and lightweight clothes.
- Check on friends and neighbors.
- Minimize use of heat-generating appliances like stoves or ovens.
- Do not exercise outdoors. If you must exercise outdoors, only exercise in the early morning hours, before 8 a.m.
- Take cool showers or baths to cool down.
- Check the local news and other outlets for important safety information.



Tap Into  
Safety



Regional Water Authority

Service – Teamwork – Accountability – Respect – Safety

 Regional Water Authority

**UNAPPROVED DRAFT**

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

**Minutes of April 14, 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, April 14, 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: L. DiFrancesco, T. Norris and J. Triana

RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Chair Betkoski called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He stated that it would be appropriate to add an item to the agenda after Item #3, *Consider and act on recommendation to the Representative Policy Board regarding Completeness, Mode and Date of Public Hearing for the Authority’s Application for the disposition of 0.92 acres located south of Ives Street in Hamden that is part of Land Unit HA 13.*

On motion made by Mr. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Malloy, and unanimously carried, the committee voted to approve the addition to the agenda.

Chair Betkoski reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Mr. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Eitzer, and unanimously carried the Committee approved the minutes of its March 10, 2021 meeting.

At 5:35 p.m., Mr. Levine entered the meeting.

Ms. DiFrancesco, the RWA’s Water Science Educator, led a discussion on the Whitney Water Center, which included:

- User groups
- Outreach, lessons and loan boxes
- Project Water program
- Participation pre and post COVID
- Opie’s World recreation program for kids

She reported that the Project Water program is designed for middle school students to learn about water quality. Students are provided with hands on testing kits called loan boxes. Ms. DiFrancesco stated that the program has been active for 30 years and has reached 350,000 students to date.

Ms. DiFrancesco has managed to make the program COVID adaptable by offering 25 learn from home videos since March 2020. This allowed the program to reach audiences within the district and has reached classrooms outside of the district as far as Sweden.

Discussion took place regarding transportation to and from the Whitney Water Center, field trips, staffing and next steps.

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

At 5:57 p.m., Ms. DiFrancesco withdrew from the meeting.

The committee discussed the application for the disposition of 95 Ives Street in Hamden. On motion made by Ms. Young, seconded by Mr. Malloy, and unanimously carried, the Committee voted to recommend the application to the RPB at its next meeting April 15, 2021.

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
March 31, 2021	96	98	91	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
March 2021	3.43	4.03	4.32
Fiscal YTD (6/1/20 – 3/31/21)	33.59	40.31	38.35

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

- Durham - Corresponded with property owner of 16+/- acres.
- Killingworth – Corresponded with a property owner of 4+/- acres.
- Madison – Corresponded with a property owner of 19+/- acres.

Hamden, DePodesta property (HA 38) – Easement to the state was filed on the land records and returned. Updated title policy and sent to DEEP.

Hamden, Olin property option – Discussed matter with Larry and prepared memo and resolution for the FMA.

Hamden, Skiff St. ACES condemnation – Received notice from State of condemnation of part of ACES condemnation along road on Skiff St. Sent to Murtha for review if there was anything for us to do.

North Branford, Beech St. and Poms La. parcels – Discussed these parcels more with the interested party.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) and 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Disposition application submitted to FMA and approved. Forwarded to the RPB. Public hearing expected in June.
- Woodbridge, 1029 Johnson Rd. – Contacted owners and perspective new buyers about the status of the property.

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.
- Madison - Nathan’s Pond Slash Wall Harvest (MA 6) – Contract awarded. Not started yet.
- Seymour - Silvermine Road Slash Wall Harvest (SE 9) – Awarded contract. Not started yet.

- Brush fire at Maltby Lake #1 across from the toolhouse was extinguished by local fire department. Covered about an acre.
- Assisted other RWA staff with pollinator pathway garden at 90 Sargent Dr.
- Supervised crew conducting tree removal work at LSWTP.

Recreation

- State moved opening day of fishing season up to March 4<sup>th</sup>. Docks were installed at the end of the month.
- Completed photo contest with 72 entries.
- One of the three new hires for recreation resigned after finding a full-time job.
- Wildlife tracking class by the Branford Land Trust had 15 participants.
- Knot tying event at Lake Saltonstall had 10 participants.
- Led hike for North Branford recreation department at Lake Gaillard with 15 participants.
- Reviewed bridge designs for the North Branford Land Trust across the Gaillard spillway channel.
- Received DPH permit for the new fishing trails at Lake Chamberlain.
- Cleared trails at Chamberlain of downed trees and brushed out red trail going up ridge at Lake Saltonstall.

	March		February	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
Permit Holders	6,336	4,049	6,131	3,780

Special Activity Permits

- Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (Dr. Chris T. Maier, Agricultural Scientist)- Conduct research on insects, particularly longhorned beetles (continuation of 2020 projects), and flower flies and to survey for abnormal emergencies of periodical cicadas, Near Lake Gaillard and Totoket Mountain complex (North Branford); near Beaver Head Road, especially Beaver Head Swamp (Guilford); forest off Dogburn Road (Orange); Magicicada Preserve (Hamden); and along Hosley Avenue (Branford), (3/12/21-11/30/21)
- Resources in Search and Rescue, Inc.-(Ms. Celeste Robitaille and designees)- Training of Search and Rescue K9 teams to locate lost or missing individuals, Two Cornwall Avenue, Prospect, (02/26/2021-02/26/2022)
- Resources in Search and Rescue, Inc.-(Ms. Celeste Robitaille and designees)- Training of Search and Rescue K9 teams to locate lost or missing individuals, 20 Rimmon Road, Seymour (03/15/2021-02/26/2022)
- Resources in Search and Rescue, Inc.-(Ms. Celeste Robitaille and designees)- Training of Search and Rescue K9 teams to locate drowning victims, Gaillard Reservoir south and west portion; (4/1/2021-4/4/2021) REVISED DATES: 4/29/21 – 5/2/21
- Shoreline Outdoor Education Center and Guilford School System (Karen S. Christensen, Ph.D., Director)-Provide geology instruction and collect rock samples from the area- Genesee Tunnel spoils area, Race Hill Road in Madison (05/01/21-12/31/21)
- Southern Connecticut State University (Steven K. Burian, Professor) Sampling for caddisfly larva of family Sericostomatidae using d-frame kick net and screen to sieve sediment in stream channel, Sargent River between Valley Road and Hilldale Road, Bethany, (4/1/2021-9/30/2021).

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –

- Agricultural fields – Discussed fields with six potential farmers. Received COI from Potter and executed agreement for four hay fields. Signed agreement with Cave for Christmas trees at Lake Gaillard.
  - Killingworth, Bunker Hill Rd. (KI 9A) – Emailed Lally again since he has not responded after receiving the license agreement.
  - Killingworth, Rt. 148 (KI 12) – Documented encroachment (trail) coming from State of CT property. Mailed abutter (Sweeney) asking if they have noticed trespassers.
  - Killingworth, Emmanuel Church Rd. (KI 14 and KI 14A) – Documented encroachment (trail) coming from Emmanuel Episcopal Church property. Mailed letter.
  - Killingworth, Rt. 148 (KI 14) – Documented encroachment (brush and debris) coming from Jurewicz property. Mailed letter.
  - Killingworth, Rt. 148 (KI 14) – Documented encroachment (machinery and animals had been over the line) coming from Coker property. Mailed letter.
  - North Branford, 229 Forest Rd. (NB 17) – Executed license agreement with Ferrucci at 229 Forest Rd. for shed, vehicles, and storage trailer.
  - Woodbridge, Sperry Rd. field (WO 5) – Denied two requests from Urbano for use of herbicides in the field. Discussed possibility to amend the license agreement to just allow mowing the field and hosting beehives.
  - Woodbridge, Morris Rd. field (WO 6) – Contacted Hubbard and told him he had to remove the machinery in the field and the piles of leaves brought from offsite.
- Invasive plants – Submitted plan for the next 5 years to Ted for review. Treated or documented invasive plant populations in Branford, Bethany, North Branford, and East Haven. Assisted with vegetation management at Lake Hudak.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	~60 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	~ 49 acres

- Deer hunt – DPH issued permit for all areas covering the next 10 years.
- Eli Whitney Museum – Discussed license agreement that affords access to the site with EWM staff.
- Prospect, Roaring Brook Rd. drainage – Met with town staff and abutters to discuss drainage coming off the road.
- Woodbridge, Cassway Rd. – Corresponded with Steve Conn about clearing the path from the improved section of the road to Sperry Rd. It is still a town road so they are free to clear anything within the town ROW.
- Cell phone antennas – Again spoke with potential vendor for cell site in Cheshire.
- Comcast lease, Burwell Tank site – Received draft amendment from Comcast and started review. Main issue observed was a change in the description of what the site can be used for.
- Personnel – Applicants screened and interviewed. Position of Natural Resources Analyst offered to and accepted.
- Ansonia, Birmingham Blvd gate – Contacted Ansonia officials on the behalf of our Police to determine who owns the chain gate that leads to the Fountain Lake Tank since someone keeps cutting our lock.
- New Haven Museum – Donated copy of Otto’s manuscript on NHWC/RWA history to the Museum’s library.

Mr. Triana stated that the May 12, 2021 Land Use Committee meeting will take place at the Ricci Property in Cheshire. The meeting will also include town staff and members of the land trust.

There were no other land items to report.

The next regular meeting of the committee is Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

At 6:26 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

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Peter Betkoski, Chairman



**Representative Policy Board  
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District  
Joint Meeting  
Consumer Affairs Committee  
and  
Land Use Committee**

**Minutes of the April 19, 2021 Joint Meeting**

A joint meeting of the Consumer Affairs Committee (“CAC”) and the Land Use Committee (“LUC”) of the Representative Policy Board of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District (“RPB”) took place on Monday, April 19, 2021, via remote access. Committee members present were: P. Betkoski, N. Campbell, P. DeSantis, B. Eitzer, M. Horbal, M. Levine, S. Mongillo, J. Oslander, F. Pepe, T. Rescigno, and Jamie Mowat Young.

RPB members present were: C. Havrda and M. Ricozzi.

RWA members present were: L. Bingaman, R. Kowalski, B. Nesteriak, T. Norris, J. Reckdenwald, and P. Singh.

D. Borowy and K. Curseaden attended from the Authority, and Jeff Donofrio, Esq., from the Office of Consumer Affairs (“OCA”).

RPB staff present: J. Slubowski.

Chairman Stephen Mongillo of the CAC, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

He stated that the meeting is a joint meeting with the Land Use Committee to review the RWA’s proposed FY 2022 capital and operating budgets. The business of the regular CAC Committee will take place after managements presentation of the FY 2022 proposed budgets.

Mr. Bingaman, RWA’s President and Chief Executive Officer, reviewed the FY 2022 capital budget outline and summarized the key points of the capital budget history. He reviewed assumptions used to develop the proposed budget. He noted that the FY 2022 capital budget includes funding of 84 projects and programs in four categories: Natural Resources, Treatment, Transmission and Pumping, and General Plant. He reported that the total budget for capital projects would be approximately \$42.9 million and is within the recommended range of GHP’s expenditure forecast audit.

Mr. Norris, RWA’s Vice President of Asset Management, Ms. Nesteriak, RWA’s Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, and Mr. Singh, RWA’s Chief Information Digital Officer and VP of Customer Care, provided information, breakdown of costs, and cost highlights for the following:

- Prioritization methodology
- Natural resources
- Treatment
- General Plant
- 5-year Plan of Capital Improvements

Mr. Bingaman discussed 5 new budget categories for FY 2023, which will include:

- Growth
- Long-Term Planning
- Regulatory Compliance
- Capital Renewal
- Technology

Mr. Bingaman summarized the FY 2022 proposed capital budget and stated that the organization would continue to pursue lower cost financing alternatives such as federal and state grants.

Discussion took place regarding levelized spending, materials, capital budget increase, infrastructure funding, and grant funding.

The Authority then reviewed the proposed FY 2022 operating budget. Mr. Bingaman provided an introduction of RWA's budget by reviewing its mitigating strategies due to COVID-19 uncertainties, reserve fund balances and FY 2021 capital sources.

Ms. Kowalski, RWA's Vice President of Financial Reporting & Analysis, provided the Authority with the FY 2022 Operating Budget financial summary. She stated that the proposed operating budget is \$59.7 million. Ms. Kowalski also reviewed trends and revenue and expense assumptions, which included:

- Highlights
- Declining consumption trends
- Revenue and expense trends and assumptions
- Maintenance Test
- Opportunities and vulnerabilities

Discussion took place regarding debt leverage decrease, Moody's assessment, invasive species and educational program budgets, wholesale services.

Attorney Donofrio, Office of Consumer Affairs, reported that he has reviewed the FY 2022 proposed capital and operating budgets and will be preparing his letter for the RWA. He commented on the RWA's challenges and adaptability for its FY 2021 budgets and deferment of the rate application due to the pandemic. The OCA's perspective of the FY 2022 budgets is that there is balance between the impact on customers while taking into consideration capital needs and deferred projects from FY 2021. His position is that he is satisfied with the proposed budgets.

At 7:00 p.m., Messrs. Bingaman, Eitzer, Harvey, Norris, Oslander and Singh and Mss. Kowalski, Reckdenwald, and Young withdrew from the meeting.

On motion made by Ms. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Pepe, and unanimously carried, the committee voted to approve the minutes of its March 22, 2021 meeting.

Attorney Donofrio reported on an ongoing consumer complaint from an owner of a rental in Milford. The owner is claiming relief for unpaid bills from a prior tenant in 2017. He anticipates the matter to be resolved by next month. He will report back to the committee at its next meeting.

On motion made by Mr. Pepe, seconded by Ms. Campbell, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the OCA's March 2021 billing (\$1,962.50).

The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 17, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

At 7:15 p.m., the meeting adjourned.

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Stephen Mongillo  
Consumer Affairs Committee Chairman

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Peter Betkoski  
Land Use Committee Chairman

**May 12, 2021**  
**Land Use Committee Meeting**

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average	Drought Status
April 30, 2021	98	99	94	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
April 2021	3.59	5.70	4.27
Fiscal YTD (6/1/20 – 4/30/21)	37.18	46.01	42.63

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

- Durham - Corresponded with property owner of 16+/- acres.
- Killingworth – Corresponded with a property owner of 4+/- acres.

Hamden, Olin property option – FMA approved the transfer of the option. Sent draft of the transfer to HLCT and their attorney for review.

Hamden, Skiff St. ACES condemnation – Murtha contacted the AG’s office. Noted we were notified since we had an interest in the ACES property.

North Branford, Beech St. and Poms La. parcels (NB 4A and p/o NB 4) – Continued to discuss these parcels with the interested party.

Guilford and Madison (GU 21 and MA 2A) – Discussed Class III land with member of the Guilford Sportsman Association.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) – LUC found application to be complete. RPB scheduled public hearing for June 17<sup>th</sup>. Sent letters to required parties.
- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Corresponded with Town Attorney about condemnation of areas they worked on beyond the plans.
- Woodbridge, 1029 Johnson Rd. – Discussed status of the house with Amity-Woodbridge Historical Society. Corresponded with owner about plans.
- Woodbridge, 2040 Litchfield Tpk. – Met with the owners about the deed restrictions, access easement, and historical conservation easement. Issued letter indicating all the items that need to be addressed including the un-approved solar panels and the missing faux chimney. Gave them until Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> to install the chimney. Solar panels could stay, but may need to be adjusted to allow room for the faux chimney.

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.
- Madison - Nathan’s Pond Slash Wall Harvest (MA 6) – **5% complete.**
- Seymour - Silvermine Road Slash Wall Harvest (SE 9) – Awarded contract. Not started yet.

- Met with CAES and NRCS to use a sprinkle infiltrometer to measure soil permeability and runoff in timber harvests.
- Planted a new riparian buffer at Farm River-EH diversion.
- Planted hundreds of Pitch Pine at the Lake Gaillard tunnel project for long-term erosion control.
- Completed forest inventory for East of North Chestnut Hill Road.

### Recreation

- Hired Melanie Hennessey for the recreation staff.
- Trout stocking occurred at Maltby Lakes – 1800 fish with 12 being tagged. Three tagged fish were caught in April.
- Boating program opened for the season at Lake Saltonstall (April 10<sup>th</sup>).
- Acquired 5 kayaks for use at Lake Saltonstall. Added them to our inventory of vessels for anglers to rent.
- History walk at Maltby Lakes had 20 participants.
- Bird walk at Lake Saltonstall had 6 participants.
- Met CFPA and Rockland Preserve staff to look over Mattabeset Trail relocation in Madison.
- Met with Customer Service staff to discuss recreation updates and programs.
- Met with mountain bike planner at Genesee area to look at proposed route for one trail.
- Completed draft of Lake Chamberlain fishing trails and sent to others for review.

	April		March	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
Permit Holders	6,502	4,479	6,336	4,049

### Special Activity Permits

- Quinnipiac University (Professor Scott Davies)-Study bird nest boxes and record bird nesting activity and success, band the adults and chicks, and collect tissue samples for analysis during breeding season, Lake Chamberlain Recreation Area, the small mown field with lots of small cedars on the east side of Sperry Road just south of Lake Chamberlain where Patrick Leahy already has some boxes, Lake Watrous, and Lake Dawson, (04/07/21-12/31/21)
- Nicholas G. McDonald (Curatorial Affiliate Yale Peabody Museum, Author, Lecturer) – Geology research - Lake Saltonstall and Lake Gaillard (04/08/21-04/08/22)
- Quinnipiac University Department of Biological Sciences (Lisa Connelly, Senior Instructor) – Education/field trips for students; measure the health of the aquatic ecosystems that surround QU campus, Clark’s Pond and Mill River, (04/09/2021-04/30/2021).
- University of Connecticut (Ms. Nancy Marek, Ph.D. Student) – drone flights to map locations of invasive understory shrub species; Japanese barberry, multiflora rose, Northeast quadrant of forested region near Lake Gaillard, (04/14/21 – 05/05/21)
- New Haven Bird Club, (Mr. Patrick T. Leahy)-Fall bird walk to observe species that are wintering on Lakes along the West River, Lake Bethany, Lake Watrous, and Lake Dawson, Bethany and Woodbridge, (10/16/21)

### Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
  - Agricultural fields – Signed license agreements with Potter for the 4 fields in north Guilford. Signed agreement with the Cave’s to use the fields at Lake Gaillard around North St. for

Christmas trees. Signed license agreement with Stewart to use field on Wiese Albert Rd., Haddam. Visited all western fields with Tanev to discuss expectations.

- Killingworth, Bunker Hill Rd. (KI 9A) – Signed license agreement with Lally to use part of the field.
- Killingworth, Emmanuel Church Rd. (KI 14 and KI 14A) – Discussed encroachment with staff from the Church.
- Killingworth, Rt. 148 (KI 14) – Discussed the encroachment with Jurewicz. Probably came from previous owners since they recently bought their property.
- Woodbridge, Sperry Rd. field (WO 5) – Urbano said she would continue with the Christmas tree license agreement
- Branford, Hilltop Dr. (BR 6) – Signed license agreement with the town for them to install a gate along the property line.
- Bethany, Bethany Horsemen – Signed new license agreement for use of the trails around Lake Chamberlain.
- Seymour, Seymour emergency radio (SE 1) – Received letter from town exercising option to renew the agreement for another 5 years.
- Seymour, ginseng request (SE 3) – Discussed possibility of allowing neighbor to grow and harvest ginseng on our property.
- Madison, Dead Hill Rd. (MA 4) – Spoke to abutter about trees taken down over the property line. Done in concert with a woodcutter who will pay for the wood.

- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in East Haven, Hamden, Bethany, North Branford, Orange, and West Haven. Met with Nancy Marek to GPS ground control points and perform a drone mission related to identifying invasive species using drones. Discussed invasives management with Wallingford Water Dept. staff.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	243 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	26.5 acres

- Personnel – Nicole Smith started as the Natural Resources Analyst on April 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Eli Whitney Museum – Continued to discuss license agreement that affords access to the site with EWM staff.
- East Haven, Virginia Rd. (EH 3) – Had Juliano find boundaries and reset pins for us to remark the boundary lines.
- North Branford/Guilford, Reeds Gap Rd. – Contacted by surveyor working on nearby property pointing out that a 0.5-acre parcel was attributed to us, but more likely owned by his client. Researched and agreed with his assumption. Contacted Guilford assessor’s office to correct the matter.
- Hamden, LWWTTP campus – Corresponded with girl scouts wishing to install bat boxes at the site.
- New Haven, East Rock Park access to Lake Whitney dam – Attended Park Commission meeting to discuss the easements that we would need to work on the dam.
- Pollinator gardens – RE staff assisted other RWA departments with installation of pollinator pathway gardens in multiple locations.
- East Haven, Beach Ave. – Decided to go ahead with acquiring the easements needed to install a depth main. Murtha will initiate a full title search of all the properties.
- Cell phone antennas – Discussed potential site in Cheshire with town staff and they were not in support, therefore we ended discussion with the cell phone company representative. Signed form for Crown Castle to add antennas at the Orange site for DISH network. This will eventually result in greater income from that site.
- Comcast lease, Burwell Tank site – Sent our comments to Comcast staff who were reviewing them.

## Attachments

- March 24, 2021 - RWA ANNOUNCES WATER WISE WAYS FOR A HEALTHY LAWN SERIES
- April 22, 2021 - On Earth Day, RWA is Helping Customers Use Water Wisely: Harvest the Rain – zip06.com website
- April 26, 2021 - Turning Attention to PFAS in Connecticut's Drinking Water – CT Examiner
- April 21, 2021 - Public and private water supply testing for PFAS begins at UMass - WWLP

## Upcoming Agenda Items

June 2021 –

### **RWA ANNOUNCES WATER WISE WAYS FOR A HEALTHY LAWN SERIES**

RWA press release – 4/13/2021

Participants will learn how to save money and the environment through efficient use of irrigation equipment, just in time for Earth Day

On April 21, the Regional Water Authority (RWA) will launch an interactive, free webinar series promoting efficient water use and lawn maintenance. Throughout this four-week series, participants will have the opportunity to hear from experts and have their questions answered about how to keep lawns and gardens healthy during the summer months without wasting water or money.

The webinar series will feature four experts, including a representative from the federal Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Watersense program, an irrigation professional, an environmental analyst from the RWA, and a master gardener. Participants can sign into each 30-minute presentation through Zoom, where they will have the opportunity to have their questions answered by experts.

Below is the schedule of presentations, which will be held on Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. All webinars are free and open to anyone who would like to participate:

- April 21 at 2:30 p.m.  
Julius Duncan, Environmental Engineer for the EPA's Watersense Branch, will discuss the EPA's Watersense program and how homeowners and businesses can identify and adopt water-efficient irrigation equipment.
- April 28 at 2:30 p.m.  
Paul Avitable, Jr., Irrigation Expert from Able Irrigation in Hamden, will discuss best practices for irrigation systems.
- May 5 at 2:30 p.m.  
Steve Vitko, Environmental Analyst for the RWA, will discuss how to create an effective and environmentally-friendly irrigation system.
- May 12 at 2:30 p.m.  
Gail K. Reynolds M.F.S., Master Gardener from UConn Extension will shed light on what grass and gardens need to grow and thrive.

To sign up for this free series, [click here](#) and complete a short registration form. Participants in the series are invited to sign up for all the webinars, or whichever ones their schedules allow.

The RWA encourages its customers to use water wisely, particularly in the summer months when dry conditions can impact water supplies throughout Connecticut. Approximately 40% of water use in the warmer months is outdoors. Efficient use of home irrigation systems can help save money and the environment. RWA customers are able to monitor their own water consumption down to the hour using the Water Watch tool, available under RWA Connect at [rwater.com](http://rwater.com).

## **On Earth Day, RWA is Helping Customers Use Water Wisely: Harvest the Rain**

ZIP06 website, 04/22/2021

April 22, 2021: Following a very hot and dry summer last year, the Regional Water Authority (RWA) is offering rain barrels at a nearly 50 percent discount to help customers use water wisely. The online sale begins today, as a way to honor Earth Day.

Rain barrels are an efficient and environmentally friendly way to store rainwater for later use by collecting runoff from a roof or downspout. The barrels provide a free, renewable source of water for filling watering cans, feeding a drip irrigation system and other outdoor chores such as gardening, cleaning muddy tools or washing a car.

Approximately 40 percent of water used by the average homeowner in warm weather months is used outdoors. A one-inch rainfall on a 1,200-square-foot roof can yield over 700 gallons of water. Using a rain barrel is an excellent way to capture this water for household use. Barrels are easily connected to downspouts. The 50-gallon rain barrels are made in the USA from recycled materials. The opening is covered with a screen to keep debris, mosquitoes and other insects out. The barrels also have a spigot to connect a hose for watering and an overflow hose.

RWA customers can order 50-gallon Ivy Rain Barrels, available through Rain Water Solutions, Inc. at a special discounted rate of \$68 each. These rain barrels typically retail for \$129 each. Online orders must be placed by Sunday, June 6. Supplies are limited.

More information on rain barrels and tips for being water wise can be found on the RWA's website. Rain barrels can be ordered online at [rainwatersolutions.com/rwater](http://rainwatersolutions.com/rwater).

The barrels, which fit in the back of most cars, will be available for pickup on Saturday, June 12 from 9 a.m. through noon, at the RWA's headquarters located at 90 Sargent Drive in New Haven, exit 46 off I-95.



## Turning Attention to PFAS in Connecticut's Drinking Water

CT Examiner; Emilia Otte; April 26, 2021

The State of Connecticut is making an increased effort to identify so-called “forever chemicals” that may be building up in certain water sources in the state.

PFAS — per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances — are a group of more than 4,700 chemical compounds that have been used since the 1940s. Found in products like cookware, food packaging and firefighting foam, they are held together by a strong carbon-fluorine bond. As a result, they build up — in soil, in groundwater, and in animals that ingest them, eventually reaching human beings.

According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control, PFAS exposure has been linked to high blood pressure, changes in liver enzymes, increased risk of certain types of cancer and low infant birth rates.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency tested water systems across the country for PFAS between the years 2013 and 2015. According to a 2016 analysis of the results, six million Americans were found to have levels of PFAS in their drinking water that exceeded the agency's maximum contamination level of 70 parts per trillion.

Lori Mathieu, chief of the Environmental Health and Drinking Water Branch of the Department of Public Health, said that the federal agency did not find any significant contamination in Connecticut. However, she added that the federal agency only tested the largest water systems.

Since then, PFAS has been found in high concentrations in a few places in Connecticut. A private well near the Eastern Connecticut Fire Training School in Windham was found to contain levels of the chemical that exceeded the state limit. In June of 2019, a leak of firefighting foam at Bradley International Airport in Windsor released the chemicals into the Farmington River. In 2018, Greenwich reported high levels of PFAS in one of its private wells.

Last month, CT Water detected PFAS in three wells in Killingworth, one of which exceeded 70 parts per trillion. However, Dan Meaney, director of public Affairs and corporate communications at CT Water, said in an email that the company has a treatment system that will lower PFAS levels to 10 parts per trillion before it arrives in residents' homes.

### Risk of exposure

Heather Stapleton, a professor at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment, said that one of the higher-risk ways people could be exposed to PFAS is through drinking the water.

Stapleton said that when people drink water that contains PFAS, the chemicals enter the bloodstream via the stomach lining, where they bind to certain proteins. The chemicals have a half-life of three to five years.

“If exposure just continues, it's hard to decrease concentrations,” said Stapleton.

She also said that the more toxic forms of PFAS, PFOA and PFOS, tended to be more prevalent in drinking water and less prevalent in household dust. While small children have more risk of exposure from household dust than adults do, Stapleton explained that PFOS and PFOA don't absorb well through the lungs because of their chemical compositions.

While the federal Environmental Protection Agency sets a maximum contamination level for PFAS at 70 parts per trillion, some states set this number far lower. Vermont and Rhode Island limit contamination to 20 parts per trillion for five PFAS chemicals. New York allows a maximum of 10 parts per trillion for the two most common PFAS chemicals.

Connecticut's current maximum contamination level is a total of 70 parts per trillion for five PFAS compounds.

### Testing the waters

Gov. Ned Lamont convened a PFAS Task Force in 2019 to discuss how to address the chemical. The Task Force, a partnership between the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the state Department of Public Health, came up with several long-term goals. One of these was widespread testing of public water systems throughout the state.

The governor's budget sets aside \$408,000 in 2022 and \$420,000 in 2023 to fund a chemist, a lab consultant, an environmental analyst and a toxicologist who would update drinking water standards and support widespread testing of PFAS throughout the state.

Mathieu said that Connecticut's public water systems include about 150 reservoir systems and more than 4,000 wells.

“So it's a lot to do,” she said.

Some private water companies, including CT Water and Aquarion Water Company, have completed separate testing for PFAS in their water systems. CT Water said that they had detected PFAS in the drinking water of 12 towns at levels of

between 2 and 26 parts per trillion. Meaney said that CT Water has not yet finished testing all of its 200-plus groundwater sources for PFAS.

Aquarion Water Company reports PFAS levels ranging between 2 and 13 parts per trillion in Bridgeport, between 8 and 15 parts per trillion in Greenwich, and between 3 and 36 parts per trillion in Danbury.

Private wells provide water for approximately 23 percent of Connecticut residents. The state does not currently require any testing for these wells, although Mathieu said that they highly encourage it.

However, the cost is a potential hindrance. The Connecticut Regional Water Authority, the only lab in the state that does PFAS testing, charges \$250 for PFAS analysis of a private well. Depending on the level of contamination, there are different technologies that can be used to filter the water.

Stapleton said that while she understands that testing is expensive, she believes it's worth the cost. She said she had installed a PFAS filter in her own home.

Mathieu said she wasn't sure whether concerns about PFAS would cause any of the more than 820,000 individuals who get their water from private wells to opt for a public water system. However, she hopes it will encourage them to test their private wells.

"It definitely awakens people to the fact that maybe they should be testing their water for some of the most basic things," she said.

### **Public and private water supply testing for PFAS begins at UMass**

WWLP; 4/21/2021; Amy Phillips

AMHERST, Mass. (WWLP) – A UMass-Amherst scientific research study team will receive a grant from the state to conduct testing for PFAS in private wells and public water supplies.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) recently awarded a grant for \$1,072,791 to Professor David Reckhow's group in civil and environmental engineering. They will sample for the contaminant per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from 1,600 public water systems and 3,500 private water wells in 84 selected communities across the state.

Earlier this year the state awarded \$3 million in grants directly to 17 public water supply systems to develop treatment systems that protect drinking water against PFAS. Most of the PFAS drinking water contamination was found near military bases, including the city of Westfield, associated with chemicals found in firefighting foam. The CDC has linked PFAS chemicals to a number of health risks, including cancer, asthma, and thyroid disease.

\*Towns added based on summer population and population updates

Approximately 40 wells will be selected in each community and the sampling is expected to be completed by June 30.