

**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 4th. 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.

Peter Betkoski, Chairman