

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

Minutes of June 9, 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, June 9, 2021 at Lake Hammonasset, 701 Old Toll Rd. (Rte. 80), Killingworth, Connecticut. Mr. Harvey presided at until Chair Betkoski arrived.

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

Authority: C. LaMarr
 Management: T. Norris and J. Triana
 RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Due to inclement weather, Mr. Harvey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Horbal, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the minutes of its May 12, 2021 meeting.

Mr. Triana, the RWA’s Real Estate Manager, provided an update of Lake Hammonasset, which included:

- Historical information
- Size of lake and surrounding area
- Tunnel development and dam project
- Watershed area
- Water source information
- Recreation activities
- Contribution to water supply

At 6:10 p.m., Chair Betkoski entered the meeting.

Discussion took place regarding inspections and importance of water source to Lake Gaillard water system. Mr. Triana stated that Lake Hammonasset is a crucial part of Lake Gaillard’s water source.

On motion made by Ms. Young, seconded by Mr. Malloy, and unanimously carried, the application for the creation of a new trail on Authority property at Lake Hammonasset in Bethany was deemed complete and is recommended to the Representative Policy Board as a Non-substantial Land Use Plan Amendment and does not require a public hearing.

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
May 31, 2021	97%	96%	93%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
May 2021	5.08	1.73	3.93
Fiscal YTD (6/1/20 – 5/31/21)	42.26	47.74	46.56

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 – Executed transfer of the option, but will have to re-execute in order to file it on the land records. Attended online meeting about the property with various stakeholders.

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

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) – Notices for the public hearing were published.
- Woodbridge, 2040 Litchfield Tpk. – Juliano found pins and staked midpoints, including one that was about 5’ within the garden. Issued letter about the lines. Met with contractor to get quote on fences.

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) – **15% complete.**
- Seymour - Silvermine Road Slash Wall Harvest (SE 9) – Awarded contract. Not started yet.
 - Planted pitch pines at Maltby.
 - Marked 400+ cords of firewood.
 - Performed a drone flight over timber harvest by Nathans Pond.

Recreation

- DEEP stocked catfish at the Maltby Lakes.
- Discussed impact of trout season changes by DEEP with them.
- Archery class held for kids had 12 participants.
- Issued letter to CFPA approving a de minimis relocation of the Quinnipiac Trail relocation in Hamden and Bethany.
- Issued letter to CFPA approving a de minimis relocation of the Mattabesset Trail relocation in Madison.
- FMA approved the LUP amendment for fishing trails at Lake Chamberlain and forwarded to the RPB.
- Hazardous trees removed at Lake Chamberlain.
- Gave tour of three recreation areas to two Customer Service staff.
- Walked more of the proposed mountain bike trails at Genesee with NEMBA representatives.
- Received updated request for disc golf properties in North Branford (NB 14 and NB 14A). Responded that we would not be interested in the proposal at that location.

	May		April	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
Permit Holders	6,337	5,160	6,502	4,479

Special Activity Permits

- Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, (Gerda Magana and Sara Carson) - Placing and servicing of invasive insect traps and doing visual inspections for invasive insects. Looking for Velvet longhorned beetle, Oak ambrosia beetle, Oak processionary moth, Asian longhorned beetle and spotted lanternfly, Lake Saltonstall, (05/19/21 – 10/31/21)
- North Madison Vol. Fire Co. (Bob Blundon) – map roads and trails for fire rescue and fire fighting property in North Madison; (5/19/2021 – 12/31/2021) Mr. Bob Blundon
- RWA and St. Bridget School (Jeffrey Yale) – offering families of St. Bridget School in Cheshire, to bring children to Lake Chamberlain Recreation Area to hike and fish; 5/22/21
- Milford Police Department (Lieutenant Luke Holder and designees) – Police dive training, Maltby Lakes, (5/24/21)
- USDA Forest Service (Dr. Melody Keena) – Collect tree branches off large or small trees for research on Asian gypsy moth or spotted lantern fly; West River Watershed, Peat Swamp reservoir area, Lake Gaillard areas, Mill River; (5/20/2021-5/20/2022)
- CTDEEP (Dr. Min Huang) – mallard nesting study; Maltby Lakes (5/20/21-6/30/21)
- State of CT Cross Connection Committee (Adam Pandolfi) – State of Connecticut Cross Connection Committee Meeting; Lake Gaillard; (06/16/2021)

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Agricultural fields – Corresponded with four perspective farmers about using Authority property. Discussed use of herbicides at the Sol’s Path field (NB 4) with Miscio.
 - Branford, Hilltop Dr. (BR 6) – Met with Land Trust staff to look over gate that was installed and gave them signs to use at the proposed gate at Hilltop Dr.
 - Seymour, ginseng request (SE 3) – Signed license agreement with Duclos to grow ginseng.
 - Madison, Dead Hill Rd. (MA 4) – Sent letter to Philbrick and Weinstein about the trees cut over the property line. Firewood will be paid for by Hopkins on his permit.
 - East Haven, 167 Saltonstall Parkway (Route 1) (EH 7) – Encroachment originally noticed by the town engineer and confirmed later by our staff. Contacted the abutter at 161 Saltonstall Parkway and issued cease and desist letter. Operations staff has been working on stabilizing and restoring the site. Contacted Juliano to reset the boundary corners once work is complete to install fence.
- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in Guilford, Bethany, North Branford, Madison, and Branford. Held walk at Sugarloaf for CIPWG with eight participants. Met with researchers at Gaillard for sites with mugwort and goldenrod growing together for a predator-prey study. Installed insect traps with researcher to monitor potentially invasive insects (velvet longhorn beetle, oak ambrosia beetle, oak processionary moth). Met with UI staff to discuss herbicide use at Lake Saltonstall.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	9.5 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	1.75 acres

- East Haven, Virginia Rd. (EH 3) – Juliano found boundaries and pins for us to remark the boundary lines. Issued map with what they found.
- North Branford/Guilford, Reeds Gap Rd. – The Guilford assessor’s office corrected the matter and transferred the property card to landowner’s name.

- New Haven, East Rock Park access to Lake Whitney dam – Collected GPS data for CP&D on the proposed easement route.
- Comcast lease, Burwell Tank site – Finalized the changes to the 2nd amendment. Forwarded to Comcast. Signed our copy of the agreement.
- Bethany, Simon Dam – Corresponded with the dam contractor for the Simon's and noted that we would not alter operations to meet their needs in the spring, but would be willing to make changes in the late summer or fall.
- Deer hunt – Applications have been received throughout the month. Deadline for applications is June 18.
- Bethany, Bear Hill Rd. – Corresponded with Bethany RPB representative about an old discussion among the Bethany selectmen to discontinue the road. Explained the situation and noted that it is open to the public, but there is no ability for people to travel it legally since there is no bridge over the impoundment.

There were no other land items to report.

Chair Betkoski notified members that the July meeting would include the appointment of Committee Chair. Any members interested should contact him prior to the next meeting.

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

At 6:40 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Harvey, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.

Peter Betkoski, Chairman