

**Representative Policy Board  
Land Use Committee  
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District  
Lake Gaillard, 105 North Street, North Branford**

**AGENDA**

**Regular Meeting of Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.**

1. Safety Moment
2. Approval of Minutes – July 14, 2021 meeting
3. Discussion of Lake Gaillard: J. Triana
4. Updates on other land and RWA properties, including invasive species update
5. Other Land items
6. Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.
7. Adjourn

# SAFETY MOMENT

## AVOID PESTICIDE EXPOSURE WITH PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

Even a “natural” or low toxicity product can cause harm if a person is exposed to it. Minimize your risk by using personal protective equipment (PPE). Different products may need different PPE. Always read and understand the label before using pesticides.



In addition to reading and following label directions consider these tips when using pesticides:

- Make sure kids and pets are out of the area before applying
- Wear protective clothing
- Mix pesticides outdoors
- Mix only what you will need to avoid storing or disposal
- Be prepared for spills
- Read First Aid instructions
- Remove personal items from spray area
- Avoid spraying in windy conditions
- Wash hands after using

Service – Teamwork – Accountability – Respect – Safety

**UNAPPROVED DRAFT**

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

**Minutes of July 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, July 14, 2021 at the Eli Whitney Museum, 915 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut. Chair Betkoski presided.

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

Authority: S. Sack  
Management: T. Norris and J. Triana  
Eli Whitney Museum: R. Paxton  
RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Chair Betkoski called the meeting to order at 5:30 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 June 9, 2021 meeting.

Mr. Triana, the RWA’s Real Estate Manager, introduced Mr. Paxton, Director of the Eli Whitney Museum, who provided an update of the educational program at Eli Whitney.

Mr. Paxton stated that currently the summer program is at full enrollment of 114 students of different age ranges. The classes are held on-site outside and include programs such as the Birds of East Rock, teaching and observing native migratory birds; an analogue game builder; and a chair building/woodworking class. Upcoming events will include a robotics camp and a natural art camp for younger students who will be working with leaves and clay.

He reported that the program is also available during the school year, which acts as a supplemental education program, teaching STEM courses and cultural education. Online options and inclement weather alternatives are also available.

Staffing includes members of senior staff, apprentices, teachers and other experts. The program is funded through grants and donations. Scholarships are also available for deserving students.

Mr. Triana provided a historical background of the Eli Whitney Museum, an update of the RWA Environmental Careers summer camp at the museum and funding.

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
June 30, 2021	93%	90%	88%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
June 2021	1.34	2.33	3.74
Fiscal YTD (6/1/21 – 6/30/21)	1.34	2.33	3.74

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.
- Cheshire – Corresponded with property owner of 56+/- acres.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) – Held public hearing for the disposition application.
- Hamden, 233 Skiff St (HA 9A) – Still no word from the town about a condemnation. Steve Mongillo was attempting to contact the Town Attorney.
- Woodbridge, 2040 Litchfield Tpk. – Solar panels were moved on the roof to accept the faux chimney.

Forestry Update

- Guilford – West of Sugar Loaf ash salvage (GU 4) – 40% complete
- Killingworth - East Hammonasset Leaf Screen Thinning, (KI 4) – **5% complete.**
- Hamden - Overstory removal and Tornado Salvage, (HA 36) – Not started yet.
- Madison - Nathan’s Pond Slash Wall Harvest (MA 6) – **35% complete.**
- Seymour - Silvermine Road Slash Wall Harvest (SE 9) – Awarded contract. Not started yet.
  - Hosted Cornell University, MDC, Aquarion, DEEP, CAES, Massachusetts DCR, University of Rhode Island, and NRCS at timber harvest 2020-01 to demonstrate experimental slash wall/deer enclosure management techniques.
  - Performed several drone flights including over timber harvest 2020-01 and Lake Hudak to document vegetation management.
  - Helped Environmental Planning with 90 Sargent Dr. pollinator garden.

Recreation

- RPB approved the LUP amendment for fishing trails at Lake Chamberlain.
- Trails day walk at Sugarloaf had 8 participants.
- Installed new gate at Maltby Lakes.
- Prepared material for next newsletter.
- Water wagon attended two events.

	June		May	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
<b>Permit Holders</b>	<b>5,991</b>	5,435	6,337	5,160

Special Activity Permits

- Yale University School of the Environment (Stanley Gosliner) - placing wire mesh cages in the ground for masters and postdoctoral research. Cages will be stocked with native grasshoppers and spiders to understand the effects of invasive plant species on native plant and insect communities; Lake Gaillard; (06/01/21-10/07/21).
- Wright Water Engineers, Inc. (Dr. Andrew Earles, PhD and Scott Schreiber, P.E., CFM) - photo-document and observe streams and wetlands on these parcels including Farm River and unnamed tributaries, including adjacent wetlands. Access the area to record data using non-invasive methods such as pressure transducers, time lapse cameras, working with EPA (Ray Putnam) and US Department of Justice, 1739, 1744 and 1778 Middletown Avenue, and the Big Gulph Recreation Area, North Branford; (6/9/21 – 6/9/22)
- UConn-Waterbury, Dept of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (Trumbo) - Continue on-going research on the behavior and ecology of burying beetles - Off Route 42 (near the Cheshire-

Bethany-Prospect line) just east of traffic light at Rt.69-Rt. 42 juncture - (6/10/2021-9/20/2021)

- Eversource-Real Estate Department (Hadden) – Eversource transmission line maintenance – replace lightning arrestors; Dogburn Rd., Orange – (8/1/2021 - 12/31/2021)
- Mill River Watershed Association (Walters) – hike proposed Mill River Trail along GNHWPCA row from Dixwell Avenue to South New Rd., (6/24/21 and 6/26/21)
- New Haven Bird Club (Mr. Patrick T. Leahy)-Spring bird walk to observe species that nest in the bluebird/tree swallow boxes that are being maintained by self on RWA lands, Lake Chamberlain hiking trails, Sperry Road farm field, Lake Dawson bluebird trail below the dam, Watrous access road at north end, Bethany and Woodbridge, (05/18/2022)
- United Illuminating (Mr. Jonathan Clark)-United Illuminating electric transmission right-of-way– inspect wire splice between two towers that may have a poor wiring connection; cleared right-of-way approx. 600 ft. north of Vaiuso Farms between tower #8897 and #8898; (6/30/21 – 7/31/21)

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
  - East Haven, 167 Saltonstall Parkway (Route 1) (EH 7) – RWA crews stabilized and restored the site. Survey showed that part of the driveway was over the property line. Discussed letter to be given to Lucido with Murtha staff.
  - Woodbridge, 60 Wepawaug Rd. – Inspected site of license agreement since Bixler wanted to terminate it since he wasn’t using it anymore. Asked Murtha to create termination document that could be filed on the land records.
  - Killingworth, Rt. 148 – Sent letter to Venuti and met him to go over placement of signs along the boundary.
  - Killingworth, Emmanuel Church Rd. – Corresponded with Church staff about blocking the path that led onto our property.
  - Bethany, 146 Wooding Hill Rd. – Met with Prentice about hazardous trees and encroachments.
- Invasive plants – Removed invasive plants around green milkweed and narrow-leaved vervain populations. Documented and/or treated invasive populations in North Branford, Madison, Guilford, Killingworth, Bethany, East Haven, and Hamden. Sustainability Team removed Japanese knotweed at Davis St., Hamden. Met again with researcher looking for velvet longhorn beetle, oak ambrosia beetle and the oak processionary moth.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	35.5 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	2.4 acres

- New Haven, East Rock Park access to Lake Whitney dam – Met with New Haven park staff to go over the plan at the site.
- Hamden, Lake Whitney access (HA 4) – Met with UI real estate staff to discuss our access to the dam.
- Deer hunt – 220 applications were received. Lottery will be held in July.
- Hamden, York Hill 2 Tank gate (HA 30) – Contacted DEEP about issues with the gate leading to the tank.
- North Branford, Foxon Rd. (NB 1C) – Met with North Branford DPW director about vegetation management adjacent to our property.
- Environmental Career Camp – RES staff presented macroinvertebrate sampling at the Mill River, forestry operations, and invasive species management.

Mr. Norris thanked members of the committee for their support with the disposition of 95 Ives Street in Hamden.

On motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Horbal, and unanimously carried, the committee voted to reappoint Mr. Betkoski as Committee Chairman for 2021-2022.

The next regular meeting of the committee is Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:16 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Oslander, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.

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Peter Betkoski, Chairman

**August 11, 2021**  
**Land Use Committee Meeting**

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average	Drought Status
July 31, 2021	97%	83%	81%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
July 2021	9.02	3.27	3.68
Fiscal YTD (6/1/21 – 7/31/21)	10.36	5.60	7.43

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.
- Cheshire – Corresponded with property owner of 56+/- acres.
- North Haven – Corresponded with property owner of 20+/- acres.
- Derby, Derby Tank site – Reviewed updated purchase and sale agreements and deed.
- North Branford, Beech St. and Poms La. properties (NB 4 and NB 4A) – Talked to two parties interested in the parcels that were approved for disposition.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) – Disposition application was approved by the RPB. Notice was filed in the papers.
- Hamden, 233 Skiff St (HA 9A) – Contact Town Attorney’s office again. She pushed it off to the Town Engineer. Had zoom meeting with him and our consultants. Updated map and sent to Town Engineer for review.
- Woodbridge, 2040 Litchfield Tpk. – Faux chimney was installed. Fence scheduled to be installed in August.

Forestry Update

- Guilford – West of Sugar Loaf ash salvage (GU 4) – 40% complete
  - Killingworth - East Hammonasset Leaf Screen Thinning, (KI 4) – **20% complete.**
  - Hamden - Overstory removal and Tornado Salvage, (HA 36) – Not started yet.
  - Madison - Nathan’s Pond Slash Wall Harvest (MA 6) – **50% complete.**
  - Seymour - Silvermine Road Slash Wall Harvest (SE 9) – Awarded contract. Not started yet.
- Hosted Hammonasset Fish & Game Club and their Forester to discuss slash walls/management of our abutting properties.
- Conducted drone flights over different timber harvests and clear cuts in Madison to monitor progress and regeneration.

Recreation

- Published latest newsletter
- First butterfly walk was cancelled due to rain.
- Second butterfly walk occurred and had 20 participants.

- Two tagged fish were caught at Maltby Lakes and gift certificates were sent out.
- One recreation permit was revoked due to multiple violations of the rules over the past three years.
- Completed creating and blazing fishing trails at Lake Chamberlain.
- The Water Wagon attended two events.

	July		June	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
Permit Holders	5,873	5,583	5,991	5,435

### Special Activity Permits

- West River Watershed Coalition (Mr. Ron Walters)-Stream walk within the West River Watershed to evaluate health of the water courses and identify areas of concern (litter, degraded buffers, stream bank erosion, outfalls), RWA property throughout West River watershed; (7/14/21 – 9/30/21)
- West Haven Parks & Recreation (Diane Dietman) - Annual fishing derby – Maltby Lakes (8/12/21 )
- Bimble's Bluff 50K (Russell Hammond) - Annual 50K foot race - Use of trails through Genesee Preserve north of Guilford (10/24/2021)
- C. Thomas Paul – (Permit renewal) Conduct research on American Indian and pre-Columbian culture as related to the Hammonasset Line - Killingworth, Madison and Guilford (7/21/2021-7/21/2022)
- Wesleyan University – (Dr. Phillip G. Resor) - Project is for geologic mapping of bedrock outcroppings, mapping, and describing those outcroppings and collecting fist sized samples for laboratory analysis land within USGS 7.5 minute Durham quadrangle (7/21/2021 – 5/31/2022)
- CT Agricultural Experiment Station (Dr. Claire Rutledge) – research project on impact of biological control on Emerald Ash Borer; area behind Northford Park in North Branford (7/21/2021-5/31/2022)
- 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; (8/1/2021)
- UCONN and URI (Gail Reynolds, and designees) – Release biological agent, moth Hypena opulenta to help control the population of invasive plants black and pale swallowwort (Vincetoxicum nigrum and V. rossicum, Lake Gaillard, (7/27/21-7/27/22)

### Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
  - Agricultural agreements – Spoke to one potential farmer about a field.
  - East Haven, 167 Saltonstall Parkway (Route 1) (EH 7) – Sent demand letter to Lucido and received denial letter. His attorney noted that the matter has been passed onto his insurance carrier.
  - Hamden, Talmadge Hill Rd. pump station (HA 34) – Sent letter to abutter instructing him to not throw rocks on our property.
- Invasive plants – Documented and/or treated invasive populations in Guilford, Prospect, Branford, East Haven. Hand-pulled water chestnut plants from Lake Saltonstall and helped get contractor harvest started with Will Henley. Worked on herbicide plots for future experimentation, and performed the various control experiments on Japanese Stiltgrass in Prospect. Sustainability Team removed Japanese knotweed at Davis St., Hamden. Biocontrol of swallowwort in North Branford was documented as progressing well.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	3.5 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	0.5 acres



- Hamden, Lake Whitney access (HA 4) – Discussed access issue with UI staff and EWM staff.
- Deer hunt – Lottery was held and 205 permits were sent to hunters to be signed and returned.
- Ansonia, Kimberly La. (AN 6) – Replied to another inquiry from a property owner on Myrtle Ave. about access from Kimberly La.
- East Haven, Beach Ave. watermain – Letter sent to property owners and started answering calls and emails.

#### Attachments

- July 16, 2021 - No Confirmed Cases Of Mystery Bird Illness In Connecticut – WNPR
- July 13, 2021 - AP Interview: EPA water chief on clean water protections – Associated Press
- August 2021 - CAES Announces the Finding of Spotted Lanternfly in Fairfield and Westport, Connecticut – CAES press release

#### Upcoming Agenda Items

September 2021 –

## **No Confirmed Cases Of Mystery Bird Illness In Connecticut**

Connecticut Public Radio | By Matt Dwyer - July 16, 2021

Birds in the Eastern United States have been dying while suffering unusual symptoms recently.

Those symptoms include swollen, crusty eyes, head bobbing, and being unable to stand up.

Speaking on Connecticut Public Radio's *Where We Live*, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Wildlife Biologist Brian Hess says there are usually some bird deaths in the wild this time of year.

Hess says some people may be noticing dead birds for the first time because of the attention drawn to the mysterious bird deaths.

"We don't have any confirmed cases [in Connecticut] at this point, Hess said. "But we have heard of some reports from the public that at least in part do seem to fit some of the patterns."

As a precaution, Hess says people should take down bird feeders.

The birds can come into contact with each other at feeders.

Hess said feeders can contribute to the spread of other diseases if they are not properly cleaned.

## **AP Interview: EPA water chief on clean water protections**

by: SUMAN NAISHADHAM, Associated Press - Jul 13, 2021

WASHINGTON (AP) — To finally determine a lasting definition of waterways that qualify for federal protection under the Clean Water Act, the Environmental Protection Agency's new water director says everyone with a stake in the issue will need to be engaged.

Radhika Fox recently spoke to The Associated Press about the Biden administration's plan to rewrite the regulation, also called Waters of the United States. The contentious rule was scaled back by the Trump administration after being expanded under President Barack Obama.

Fox joins the EPA as water issues have become a priority under President Joe Biden. She was previously CEO of the conservation advocacy group U.S. Water Alliance and policy director at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

Fox also spoke about the infrastructure plan's goal of eliminating the country's remaining lead pipes and service lines, which pose a risk for contaminated water in homes and schools. And she spoke about the importance of diversifying water sources in dry regions, such as by recycling wastewater and capturing stormwater.

The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

**Q:** Regarding the Clean Water Act, how does the administration seek to balance the interests of farmers, ranchers, developers and environmentalists?

**A:** If we look back 50 years ago, what really prompted us to create the Clean Water Act is that literally rivers were on fire because pollution was so bad. To your question about how we intend to get to a durable definition, it's really to do it in partnership. The one thing about Waters of the U.S. is nearly every water stakeholder has a stake in that definition. If we don't reflect on that, and really understand the on-the-ground implementation challenges, I don't think we can get to a durable definition.

**Q:** Who is the administration talking to before changes to the rule are made?

**A:** We are going to have public meetings that will be happening later this summer, where any interested stakeholder can share their views. We're going to be doing regional roundtables in different parts of the country so we can understand the regional variation. When we do those, we're going to try to bring all sides together in one discussion.

**Q:** How do you see the twin challenges of promoting growth in arid places while drought conditions and water scarcity worsen?

**A:** It's using every tool in our toolbox when it comes to meeting the water needs for all communities, particularly in the West. There's incredible innovation that has been happening around diversifying local water supplies and reuse. We need to really double down on a lot of those types of projects.

**Q:** Is it wise to encourage millions of people to live in places facing aridification and annual wildfires?

**A:** The reality is we have millions of people living in the West. It is a critical economic center for America. So we really need to invest in those things that are going to promote diversification of water supplies. When I worked at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, we were in a drought at the time. A lot of the success that we had is that, as a local water utility, we tried to steward every drop as carefully as we could.

**Q:** Who isn't currently served by clean water in the U.S.?

**A:** If you look at the water access gap in this country, it impacts both urban and rural America. In rural communities, we have places like McDowell County, West Virginia, where communities never got centralized drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. In many urban communities, it's low-income people and communities of color, particularly African Americans and Latino communities that face many of the contamination issues and aging water infrastructure issues. There's millions of people who don't have access to clean, safe, reliable, and increasingly, affordable water service.

**Q:** How does the infrastructure plan intend to map out where lead pipes and service lines are?

**A:** There's a real unevenness around the country in knowing where these lead service lines are. There's also a lot of new technologies that are emerging that can help the water utility map these things more quickly and more efficiently. In places that have that, they'd be able to move forward with those removal projects. For communities that don't, we really would like to see some of the resources going to doing that inventory. We are also developing guidance and technical assistance to help states and localities on that inventory. There's a number of water associations that are also working with their member utilities.

## **CAES Announces the Finding of Spotted Lanternfly in Fairfield and Westport, Connecticut**

CAES Press Release – August 2021

New Haven, CT - The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) in cooperation with USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) announce the detection the largest population reported to date of nymphs of the spotted lanternfly (SLF) on Ailantus (Tree of Heaven) in Southport in Fairfield, and another infestation nearby in Westport, Connecticut. A few adults were also found. Surveys in the area of these detections will be conducted by state and federal plant inspectors to determine the extent of the infestation. In 2020, multiple adult SLF populations were detected in Greenwich, New Canaan, and Stamford, with a detection in Norwalk in July 2021. “These detections of the spotted lanternfly indicate that this insect is expanding in Fairfield County and raises major concerns for Connecticut’s agriculture” said State Entomologist Dr. Kirby Stafford. Further detections are likely. Single adults were detected in Farmington in 2018, Southbury in 2019, and West Haven in 2020, likely hitchhikers on vehicles from other infested states. The public is urged to report potential sightings of this invasive pest. If you suspect you have found a SLF, snap a picture of it, collect it if possible, and report it to [ReportSLF@ct.gov](mailto:ReportSLF@ct.gov). More information about SLF and state quarantine requirements can be found at: <https://portal.ct.gov/CAES/CAPS/CAPS/Spotted-Lanternfly---SLF>. Additional information is available at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Forestry/Forest-Protection/Spotted-Lanternfly> and <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly>. Native to China, India, and Vietnam, the spotted lanternfly is an invasive sap-feeding planthopper that was discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014. SLF infestations have been reported in New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Ohio, New York, and Connecticut. The nymphal stage of this insect is currently active with adults appearing late summer. In the fall, adults about 1 inch long can often be found congregating on tree-of-heaven (Ailanthus), willows and other trees. They will lay egg masses on trees and almost any nearby surface like rocks, decks, houses, outdoor equipment, and furniture, etc. Nymphs of SLF will hatch from the eggs in the spring (late April-June). This insect attacks many hosts and has the potential to severely impact Connecticut’s farm crops, particularly apples, grapes, and hops, and several tree species. The secretion of excess sap called honeydew can also be a nuisance for residential homeowners.