

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

**Minutes of September 8, 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, September 8, 2021 at Lake Chamberlain, 1 Sperry Road, Bethany, Connecticut. 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: D. Borowy  
 Management: T. Norris and J. Triana  
 RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Chair Betkoski called the meeting to order at 4:45 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 August 11, 2021 meeting, as presented.

Mr. Triana, the RWA’s Real Estate Manager, led a discussion on recreation activities at Lake Chamberlain, which included:

- 8 new recreation trails
- Trail locations
- Access information
- Fishing
- Horseback riding (through the Bethany Horseman)

He also provided historical information on the dam, which was built in the 1890’s. Mr. Triana reported that Lake Chamberlain contains about four square miles of watershed property and its reservoir holds about 900 million gallons of water that is used as storage for use in New Haven, West Haven, Woodbridge and the valley area.

Committee members discussed embankment dams, climate change, horseback riding requirements, spillage, and dam improvements.

Update on *The Land We Need for the Water We Use Program* – J. Triana, the RWA’s Real Estate Manager, reported:

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>	<b>Historical Average</b>	<b>Drought Status</b>
August 31 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	92%	75%	74%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>	<b>Historical Average</b>
August 2021	3.15	2.84	3.98
Fiscal YTD (6/1/21 – 8/31/21)	13.51	8.44	11.40

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.
- Derby, Derby Tank site – Reviewed more documents dealing with this property.
- North Branford, Beech St. and Pumps La. properties (NB 4 and NB 4A) – Authorized new appraisals of the two pieces that are part of land unit NB 4.
- Hamden, transfer of option for Olin property – Murtha preparing document to re-execute in order to file on the land records.
- Marlborough commercial property – Property found through a contact in the area.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) – Talked to Preservation Connecticut about advertising the bid once it goes out.
- Hamden, 233 Skiff St (HA 9A) – Set email to Town Engineer to see if he has reviewed the updated survey or not.
- Woodbridge, 2040 Litchfield Tpk. – Fence installed along property lines.

Forestry Update

- Guilford – West of Sugar Loaf ash salvage (GU 4) – 40% complete
- Killingworth - East Hammonasset Leaf Screen Thinning, (KI 4) – **25% complete.**
- Hamden - Overstory removal and Tornado Salvage, (HA 36) – Not started yet.
- Madison - Nathan’s Pond Slash Wall Harvest (MA 6) – **65% complete.**
- Seymour - Silvermine Road Slash Wall Harvest (SE 9) – Awarded contract. Not started yet.
- Killingworth - N. Chestnut Hill Patch Cuts, (KI-6) - **Marking Complete, Job out to Bid.**
  - Completed marking timber harvest 2021-02.
  - Met with representatives of CT DEEP to discuss the bat hibernaculum at the northern end of Lake Gaillard and possible forest management in the vicinity.
  - Met with representatives of the NB land trust, Yale forestry, UConn, and the CAES to discuss a meeting the slash wall harvest at Nathan’s pond for all southern CT land trusts.
  - Met with New England (Yankee) Society of American Foresters representatives to discuss Fall meeting at Nathan’s pond slash wall.
  - Worked with facilities department to get the Christmas tree plantation mowed as well as the traffic circle/future pollinator garden.

Recreation

- Dealt with numerous trespassing issues at Pine Hill, Maltby Lakes, and Lake Hammonasset.
- Botany walk at Lake Hammonasset had 25 participants.
- Gave tour of properties to four customer service reps.
- Dealt with many issues of permittees not being able to access the website.
- Water Wagon attended one event and deployed to CT Hospice during an emergency.

	August		July	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
Permit Holders	5,926	5,615	5,873	5,583

Special Activity Permits

- CT Dept. of Energy & Envir. Protection Fisheries Division (Christopher McDowell and designees) – recapture population estimate on the Channel Catfish populations, Maltby Lake #2 and #3 (9/27/21-11/01/21).

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
  - Agricultural agreements – Tanev cut the fields in Prospect, Bethany, and Woodbridge. Discussed other fields with another potential farmer.
  - Cheshire, Harrison Rd. (CH 2) – Alerted by neighbor about potential encroachment at 264 Harrison Rd. Sent letter and will check in the field in the fall.
  - East Haven, 167 Saltonstall Parkway (Route 1) (EH 7) – Got quote for erecting a fence along the property line. No word from Lucido or his insurance company by month’s end.
- Invasive plants – Documented and/or treated invasive populations in East Haven, North Branford, Madison, and Guilford. Completed the water chestnut harvest at Furnace Pond. Performed a drone flight over furnace pond to document how much water chestnut was harvested. Alerted by members of the Branford Land Trust that there were water chestnut plants in the property they received from Cosgrove recently. The CAES completed collecting insects at Lake Saltonstall, and will be reporting back any notable findings in a few months. Collected herbicide plot data from Prospect on multiple days.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	20.5 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	3 acres

- East Haven, Beach Ave. watermain – Spoke to last property owner who was not in favor of the easement. Alerted RWA and Murtha staff.
- Bethany, Bear Hill Rd. (BE 36 and BE 37) – Received an email from the Town Attorney of Bethany notifying us that they will be partially discontinuing the unimproved portion of Bear Hill Rd. Discussed their intentions and went over our concerns about promoting access to this area.
- Eversource upgrading towers (EH 12) – Corresponded with Burns and McDonald staff about Eversource’s replacement of towers in their ROW off of Barberry Rd.
- Allings Crossing Rd., West Haven (WH 6) – Contacted by UI staff about the need for an easement on this property for a 100’ pole.
- Access road to Whitney-Wintergreen Tank (HA 30) – Alerted DEEP staff about a sinkhole in the road at the bridge north of Lake Wintergreen.

Members discussed the status of Derby Tank project.

Committee assignments for the next quarter Authority meetings were made, as follows:

- October 21, 2021 – Mr. Malloy
- November 18, 2021 – Mr. Oslander
- December 16, 2021 – Ms. Young
- January 20, 2022 – Mr. Eitzer

The next regular meeting of the committee is Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. at Lake Saltonstall and will include the committee’s annual pizza dinner.

At 5:26 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Oslander, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.

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Peter Betkoski, Chairman