

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

Minutes of August 11, 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, August 11, 2021 at Lake Gaillard, 105 North Street, North Branford, Connecticut. In Chair Betkoski’s absence, Mr. Harvey presided.

Present: Committee Members: P. DeSantis, B. Eitzer, R. Harvey, M. Horbal, M. Levine, G. Malloy, and J. Oslander
Authority: C. LaMarr
Management: J. Courchaine and J. Triana
RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Mr. Harvey called the meeting to order at 5:31 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 July 14, 2021 meeting.

Mr. Triana, the RWA’s Real Estate Manager, led a discussion on the history of Lake Gaillard, which included:

- 1924 Appraisal
- Historical farms and houses
- Rhine Valley
- Dam construction
- East Dike
- Water storage and supply
- Gouidin Y. Gaillard
- Wildlife

At 5:41 p.m., Mr. Levine entered the meeting.

Mr. Triana reported that the lake was named after Gouidin Y. Gaillard who was appointed to the board in 1916 and served until his death in 1959. In 1924, he was appointed as president of the company to succeed his father-in-law Eli Whitney III and served until 1954.

He also reported that the Lake Gaillard dam construction was completed in 1924. The reservoir currently holds 15 billion gallons of water of which 13 billion gallons is available for water supply. The Lake Gaillard reservoir currently services 60% of the RWA’s water district.

Discussion took place regarding depth, status of farms and houses, July draft, and contingency plan.

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
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
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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.

Members inquired about the status of the Derby Tank project and the Prospect dam.

The next regular meeting of the committee is Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

At 6:07 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Levine, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.

Robert E. Harvey, Jr., Acting Chairman