

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

Minutes of October 13, 2021 Meeting

A 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, October 13, 2021 at Lake Saltonstall, 100 Hosley Avenue, Branford, 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: C. LaMarr
 Management: L. Bingaman, T. Norris and J. Triana
 RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Chair Betkoski called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Eitzer, and unanimously carried the Committee approved the minutes of its September 8, 2021 meeting.

Mr. Triana, the RWA’s Real Estate Manager, provided an update of additions to the RWA’s recreation program, which included:

- 5 Kayak rentals
- Shipping container for patrol boat
- New fish shack

Mr. Triana stated that boating rentals are down from last year when the pandemic was at its peak and have since dropped to prior years’ averages.

Discussion took place regarding foot traffic, mandates, and signage at Lake Saltonstall.

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)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average	Drought Status
September 30, 2021	89%	68%	68%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
September 2021	7.99	2.99	3.77
Fiscal YTD (6/1/21 – 9/30/21)	21.50	11.43	15.17

Land We Need for the Water We Use Program (Dispositions/Acquisitions)

- Killingworth – Corresponded with a property owner of 4+/- acres.
- Cheshire – Corresponded with property owner of 56+/- acres.
- Madison – Corresponded with property owner of 19+/- acres.
- Madison – Corresponded with property owner of 23+/- acres.
- 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.
- Guilford and Madison (GU 21 and MA 2A) – Discussed Class III land with member of the Guilford Sportsman Association.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) – Compiled material for the bid, but await amendments from Murtha.
- Hamden, 233 Skiff St (HA 9A) – Town stated updated survey was fine. They would start condemnation procedure. Sent them the property description to use.
- Woodbridge, 1029 Johnson Rd. – Received plans from the Tarlowski’s for the work on the house.
- Orange, 499 Derby Ave. – Received plans from the Corjuc’s for the work on the house.

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) – **75% 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.
- Hosted and presented to Yankee Society of American Forester’s meeting on RWA property in Madison. 50+ attendees from MA, RI, NY, and CT.
 - Worked with NRCS in Madison to expand soil pits intended for the measurement of organic carbon in the soil.
 - Ordered Christmas trees for planting next spring.
 - Completed necessary timber harvest notifications for 2021-03 (Guilford – Menunketuc).

Recreation

- Storage container was delivered to Lake Saltonstall to house the patrol boat.
- Held history walk at Maltby Lakes with 25 participants.
- Astronomical Society cancelled the planned star gazing event in October due to pandemic.
- The Water Wagon attended three events.

	September		August	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
Permit Holders	5,684	5,711	5,926	5,615

Special Activity Permits

- CT Dept. of Energy & Envir. Protection Fisheries Division (Christopher McDowell and designees) -, Boat night electroshocking to access the lake’s fishery, Lake Gaillard (9/7/2021 – 10/7/2021).

- Dog Gone Recovery Volunteers (Melanie Heltke and designees) - To locate a missing dog last seen in the woods at the area of Big Gulph (9/10/2021-10/10/2021).
- Univ.of New Haven Army ROTC Program Coordinator (Robert Clark) - Squad Tactical and Platoon Tactical Training - 1955 Litchfield Turnpike/West River Training Area, Woodbridge (9/13/21-9/13/22).
- CT Dept. of Energy & Envir. Protection Wildlife Biologist (Dr. Devaughn Fraser) - acoustic monitoring of bats to determine species occupancy of hibernacula and species presence/bat activity in Fall, Spring, and Summer to help inform tree management activities, Lake Gaillard (10/1/2021-10/01/2022)
- Save the Sound (Ms. Briana Costello) – volunteer clean up captain, trash cleanup along public road and residential debris removal along access road to prevent it from entering the river and flowing to Long Island Sound, 255 Rock Street, East Haven, CT, (9/18/2021)
- Southern Connecticut State University (Michael J. Maloney)-looking to set mesh minnow traps in several ponds in Madison, transport the wood frogs that swim into the traps to the lab in New Haven for tests (strength, jump distance, etc.) then return the frogs to the ponds where they came from, Rt. 79 north of the traffic circle and Summer Hill Road, (09/17/2021-09/17/2022).
- Resources in Search and Rescue, Inc.-(Ms. Celeste Robitaille and designees)- Training of Search and Rescue K9 teams to locate lost or missing individuals, RT 42 Swamp southeast of RT 42 Bethany; (09/17/2021-09/17/2022)
- Robert Uhl - photography for purpose of documenting CT Waterfalls; south of Falls Rd. in Bethany, along Hopp Brook; (9/27/21-10/4/21).

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Agricultural agreements – Spoke to Galgano about use of one of the Downs Rd. fields in Hamden. Replied to another potential farmer.
 - East Haven, 167 Saltonstall Parkway (Route 1) (EH 7) – Spoke to neighbor about the encroachment of Lucido. She claimed that we did something to exacerbate flooding in her yard. Installed fence along property line. Observed car parked antagonistically in front of our property. Murtha trying to contact their attorney and insurance carrier.
- Invasive plants – Got quotes from Charter Oak for clearing fields on Downs Rd., Hamden and Sugarloaf recreation area, Guilford. Recorded herbicide plot data in Prospect. Installed two Spotted Lanternfly traps on the Saltonstall ridge to monitor for the invasive pest. Discussed water chestnut removal and disposal with Branford Land Trust staff regarding a pond on BLT property that drains on to RWA property. Documented 4.4 acres of water chestnut harvested from furnace pond this season, using drone mapping that took place before and after the harvest. Though this collection covered roughly the same area as the collection from last year, there was significantly more material collected in comparison. The operator estimated that he harvested material on more like 5-6 acres of a pond, but it’s difficult to determine that while you are in the pond collecting, and he might have determined this based on the volume of material. The removal of more material this year will hopefully lead to less material needing to be collected next year to make the same impact.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	15.6 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	1.8 acres

--	--

- East Haven, Beach Ave. watermain – Contacted property owner who was not in favor of the easement to find out where the letter was from his lawyer. He said he would check.
- West Haven, Allings Crossing Rd. (WH 6) – Met with UI contractor and CP&D staff to discuss the matter. They will get a special permit from us to conduct their borings to see if there is the right base for the new poles.
- Deer hunt – The check-station volunteer acceptance and rejection letters were mailed to the volunteers. Started remarking the boundaries.
- Bethany, Simon dam – Corresponded with owners of dam between Lake Bethany and Lake Watrous. Conditions have not allowed us to cooperate with them like we did last year.
- Hamden, LWWTP bat boxes (HA 1) – Met with girl scout about potential locations for bat boxes.
- Prospect dam – Participated in discussion about the report about the Prospect dam.

At 5:21 p.m., Mr. Levine withdrew from the meeting.

The committee discussed board meeting dates for the calendar year 2022, updates to the Derby Tank project, and concerns regarding the Hop Brook Village Application.

The next regular meeting of the committee is Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

At 5:33 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Horbal, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.

Peter Betkoski, Chairman