

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

**Minutes of January 12, 2022 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, January 12, 2022, via remote access. 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: K. Curseaden  
 Management: W. Henley, S. Lakshminarayanan, J. Tracy and J. Triana  
 RPB Staff: J. Slubowski

Chair Betkoski called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Mr. Eitzer, seconded by Mr. Harvey, the Committee approved the minutes of its December 8, 2021 meeting, with Mr. Malloy abstaining.

Mr. Henley, the RWA’s Aquatic Resource Scientist, and Mr. Tracy, the RWA’s Invasive Species Management Technician, provided an update on the Water Chestnut Harvest at Furnace Pond in Branford, which included:

- Progression of water chestnut and conditions
- Invasive species prevention
- Summer 2020/2021 harvest and monitoring
- Equipment used
- Decomposition
- Future initiatives

At 6:00 p.m., Messrs. Henley and Tracy withdrew from the meeting.

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>
December 31, 2021	85%	81%	72%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>	<b>Historical Average</b>
December 2021	1.55	4.25	4.09
Fiscal YTD (6/1/21 – 12/31/21)	31.13	25.10	27.14

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

- Madison – Corresponded with property owner of 19+/- acres.
- Madison – Corresponded with property owner of 23+/- acres.
- North Haven – Corresponded with property owner of 14+/- acres.

- North Branford, Beech St. and Poms La. properties (NB 4 and NB 4A) – Appeared at NBLCT meeting to discuss our disposition process. Contacted Bennett and Smilas to hire them to help us with the property splits.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) – Bids opened with 3 respondents. Top bidder wanted to pull out. We then awarded the bid to the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest bid. Corresponded with bidder’s attorneys about the P&SA and closing.
- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Spoke to town staff about the condemnation. They indicated they would get to it by the end of the first quarter of 2022.
- Woodbridge, 1029 Johnson Rd. – Owners indicated they would compromise on some points we brought up. Asked them for updated plans when they were ready.
- Woodbridge, 2040 Litchfield Tpk. – Found material was still left over the property line and down the bank. Informed the owners that we would not accept any bid from them for 95 Ives St. By end of the month, they removed all the material and our crews installed jute mats.

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. Looking to grant extension.
- Madison - Nathan’s Pond Slash Wall Harvest (MA 6) – **90% complete.**
- Seymour - Silvermine Road Slash Wall Harvest (SE 9) – **Harvest started in December. 10% complete.**
- Killingworth - N. Chestnut Hill Patch Cuts, (KI 6) – **Bid awarded.**
  - Alex Amendola’s last day was Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. Started interviewing candidates to fill the position.
  - Observed southern pine beetles at Lake Bethany. Consulted with CAES staff.
  - Updated forestry SOP’s in advance of Alex’s departure.
  - Marked firewood lots and issued one new permit.
  - Continued marking future timber sale at Lake Menunketuc.

Recreation

- Christmas tree cutting event had 63 trees harvested.
- Held invasive plants walk at Lake Saltonstall with 4 attendees.
- Continued process to hire new people for next year’s fishing season.
- Reblazed trails at Lake Bethany.
- Redirected FB messenger notices about discolored water in West Haven to Operations staff.

	December		November	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
<b>Permit Holders</b>			5,578	5,879

Special Activity Permits

- New Haven Bird Club (Chris Loscalzo) - Annual Christmas Bird Count survey - Saltonstall, Whitney, Wepawaug, Maltby, Dawson, Glen, Chamberlain, Watrous – (12/18/2021).
- Christopher Loscalzo (at request of CTDEEP) - Annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey - Lakes Saltonstall and Gaillard – (1/8/2022).

- Branford Land Trust (Tom Cleveland ) - Tracking class - Lake Saltonstall woods - 1/29/2022 (Rain Date: 1/30/2022) & 2/26/2022 (Rain Date: 2/27/2022).
- McLaren Engineering Group (Craig Plate) – Perform a routine and underwater inspection of the Davis Street Bridge over Lake Whitney; contracted by CTDOT to perform the inspection; (12/22/2021).

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
  - Agricultural agreements – Signed agreement for use of one of the fields (HA 36). Met beekeeper at Prospect to look at possible new site for hives (PR 6).
  - East Haven, 167 Saltonstall Parkway (Route 1) (EH 7) – Corresponded with Murtha staff about progress. Their attorney claimed they did not receive the documents we supplied weeks ago. Abutter has been parking more vehicles along our frontage with Rt. 1.
  - Cheshire, 264 Harrison Rd. (CH 2) – Sent abutter a draft license agreement.
  - Seymour, 8 Maiden La. (SE 3) – Sent draft license agreement to realtor involved in sale of this property.
  - New Haven, 1201 Whalley Ave. (NH 5) – Attempted to contact Spinaci’s since the license agreement expired in December 2021.
  - Madison, 81 Suffolk Dr. (MA 12) – Corresponded with Nature Conservancy staff about this encroachment. Sent follow-up letter after what we sent in January.
  - North Branford, Big Gulph area (NB 4) – Alerted by North Branford staff about trespassing and fort constructed on our property. Police contacted youths and their families.
- Invasive plants – Documented or treated invasive populations in North Branford and Guilford. Discussed aquatic species grant that we applied for last year with the new Grant Writer for the RWA.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	39 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	2.66 acres

- Deer hunt – Post-hunt surveys were mailed out and have been coming in.
- East Haven, Beach Ave. watermain – Corresponded with attorneys and surveyor preparing easement and map for use in the project.
- Hamden, New Haven Country Club (HA 5) – Asked by the NHCC to sign off on an assignment with them and Webster Bank since they have a license agreement with us for part of the parking lot. Referred to Murtha to review it before we sign anything.
- Hamden, Eli Whitney Museum – Discussed license agreement that affords access to the site with Murtha stuff. We will waive the conflict of interest that Murtha has with UI.

There were no other land items to report.

Chair Betkoski reported on the volunteer to attend the Authority meeting on January 27, 2022.

The next regular meeting of the committee is Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

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

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Peter Betkoski, Chairman