

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

Minutes of February 9, 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, February 9, 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: C. LaMarr
 Management: L. Bingaman, S. Lakshminarayanan and J. Triana
 UCONN: S. Trumbo
 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, the Committee approved the minutes of its January 12, 2022 meeting.

At 5:32 p.m., Mr. Levine entered the meeting.

Mr. Trumbo, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UCONN, provided an update on Carrion ecology and forensic entomology, which included:

- Beetle variations and differences
- Locations and trapping methods
- Social behavior research
- Chemical ecology and lab analysis
- Trapping methods

Discussion took place regarding reasons for the study, ecosystem benefits, beetle diversity, animal attraction, and predators.

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
January 31, 2022	87%	85%	77%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
January 2022	2.68	1.23	3.56
Fiscal YTD (6/1/21 – 1/31/22)	33.81	26.33	30.70

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.
- Branford – Corresponded with property owner of 12+/- acres.
- North Branford, Beech St. and Poms La. properties (NB 4 and NB 4A) – Appeared at zoom meeting with Bennett and Smilas staff along with town staff to discuss how to split off the parcels. Authorized B&S to revise the maps and file on the land records.
- Branford, Brushy Plain Rd. (BR 7) – Met with First Selectman of Branford to discuss the possible sale of ~30 acres to the town for open space. He said he would discuss with the town council.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) – Executed the P&SA. Received title report from the buyer. Executed the signature pages for the closing.
- Woodbridge, 1029 Johnson Rd. – Received revised plans from the Tarlowski's. Sent letter of approval for the amended plans.

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) – **95% complete.**
 - Seymour - Silvermine Road Slash Wall Harvest (SE 9) – **50% complete.**
 - Killingworth - N. Chestnut Hill Patch Cuts, (KI 6) – Bid awarded.
- Responded to email with questions and complaint from Seymour First Selectwoman about the harvest on Silvermine Rd.
 - Responded to questions with two abutters of the Silvermine Rd. timber harvest.
 - New Forester starting February 7th.

Recreation

- Submitted annual report to DPH in accordance with our DPH permits.
- Held New Year’s Day hike at Lake Bethany with 15 people.
- Continued process to hire new people for next year’s fishing season. Had multiple candidates not show up for their interviews.
- Acquired two aluminum boats for the 2022 fishing season at Lake Saltonstall.
- Prepared next newsletter for publication.

	January		December	
	2022	2021	2021	2020
Permit Holders	5,605	6,129	5,655	6,016

Special Activity Permits

- CT Agricultural Experiment Station (Dr. Jeff Ward, et al) - General forestry and wildlife research, tick/Lyme Disease studies - Lake Gaillard, North Madison, Prospect, Seymour, Branford, Bethany (1/06/2022 – 01/06/2023).

- New Haven Bird Club (Patrick T. Leahy) – Maintain and monitor bluebird nesting boxes on 7 sites – Downes Road, Bethany, adjacent to Lake Bethany property and field below Lake Dawson dam, Woodbridge, farm field on Sperry Road and Lake Chamberlain below the dam, Lake Watrous and other properties – (1/1/22– 12/31/22).

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Agricultural agreements – Signed agreement with Kay for bee hives in Prospect (PR 6). Spoke to Baldelli about possible use of the Parish Farm Rd. fields for Christmas trees (BR 19). Received Christmas tree reports from Urbano, Miscio, and Jaynes.
 - East Haven, 167 Saltonstall Parkway (Route 1) (EH 7) – Corresponded with Murtha staff about progress. Sent letters to Lucido’s attorney. Reviewed draft of complaint. Marshall served the complaint to Lucido. Discussed the legal hold of materials with Murtha and RWA staff.
 - Cheshire, 264 Harrison Rd. (CH 2) – Executed license agreement for lawn and fence.
 - Seymour, 8 Maiden La. (SE 3) – Sent draft license agreement to new owner of the property.
 - New Haven, 1201 Whalley Ave. (NH 5) – Executed new license agreement with Spinaci for the parking lot next to the PRV.
 - Madison, 81 Suffolk Dr. (MA 12) – Kuck called to say that they would move the fence once the weather warms up.
- Invasive plants – Submitted grant application to DEEP for water chestnut harvesting project. Documented invasive populations in West Haven and Hamden.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	8.36 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	0 acres

- Deer hunt – Annual report submitted to DPH. From the post-hunt survey, we estimate total man-days spent scouting were 265 days. Man-days spent hunting were 927 days, while the total man-hours were 4,745 hours.
- East Haven, Beach Ave. watermain – Discussed draft easement and survey with Murtha and Juliano staff. Submitted draft of each to East Haven town staff to review.
- Hamden, New Haven Country Club (HA 5) – Discussed the request with Murtha. Decided that we would not sign the assignment since it was not in our best interest.
- Guilford, Rockland Rd gate (GU 15 and 18) – Notified by abutters that the pin of the gate was cut and the gate was open. Submitted work request to repair.
- Seymour, Haddad Rd. and Silvermine Rd. parcels (SE 9 and 10) – Spoke to town staff about possible sale of these parcels. Informed them it was not possible since the town wanted to develop them.
- New Haven, Yale Golf Course – Participated in zoom meeting with YGC staff and consultants to discuss planned work on the golf course.
- East Haven, 180 Borrmann Rd. (EH 2) – Checked on complaint from abutter regarding flooding in his backyard coming from the ridge. Water from seeps were not going to the intended storm sewer pipes.
- Farm River greenway trail – Attended zoom meeting about plans for greenway trail along Farm River in North Branford and East Haven.

Mr. Bingaman, the RWA’s President & Chief Executive Officer, reported that he and members of leadership would tour the watershed next week with Mr. Triana to review critical areas.

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

At 6:20 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Harvey, and unanimously carried, the committee meeting adjourned.

Peter Betkoski, Chairman