Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
Madison Slash Wall - meet at the gate on Rt. 79/Durham Rd. in Madison (the gate is on the east side of the road, approximately 1000' south of the gate for the Genesee recreation parking lot (1825 Durham Rd.)).*

AGENDA

Regular Meeting of Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

1. Safety Moment
2. Approval of Minutes – March 9, 2022 meeting
3. Introduction of RWA Forester and view of Madison slash wall timber harvest: Casey Cordes
4. Updates on other land and RWA properties, including invasive species update
5. Other Land items
6. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.
7. Adjourn

**A pink flag will be at the gate. Enter the gate and drive up the road 100-200'. There is room for several vehicles. A vehicle ferry will be available for those who need assistance getting to the meeting site.*

* In the event of rain, the meeting will be held remotely. To view meeting documents and obtain remote meeting instructions in the event of inclement weather, please visit https://tinyurl.com/2p8k4wza. For questions, contact the board office at jslubowski@rwater.com or call 203-401-2515.

Representative Policy Board

Land Use Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

(See agenda for meeting location. In the event of rain *only* the meeting will take place via conference call):

Call in *(audio only)*

+1 469-965-2517,,299910349# United States, Dallas

Phone Conference ID: 299 910 349#

For questions, contact the board office at 203-401-2515 or by email at jslubowski@rwater.com

SAFETY MOMENT

Tap Into Safety

Regional Water Authority

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARDS

Environmental health hazards are any environmental factors or situations that can cause injury, disease or death. There are a range of environmental health hazards that affect our wellbeing. Hazards can be grouped together to improve understanding and action planning. The actions that you need to carry out to protect the health of your community depend on knowing how these hazards can affect us all. Hazards are generally categorized as follows:

- **Physical hazards** are those substances or conditions that threaten our physical safety. Fires, explosive materials, temperature (hot or cold), noise, radiation, spills on floors and unguarded machines are some examples of physical hazards.
- **Biological hazards** are organisms, or by-products from an organism, that are harmful or potentially harmful to human beings. They include pathogenic bacteria, viruses and parasites, and also toxins (poisons) that are produced by organisms.
- **Chemical hazards** are present when a person is exposed to a harmful chemical at home or at work. These can be in the form of gases, solids or liquids.
- **Cultural hazards** are practices that adversely affect health. These include cultural practices such as drinking water storage and not washing hands.
- **Social hazards** include alcoholism, obesity, smoking and drug use.

Service – Teamwork – Accountability – Respect – Safety

Safety is a core company value at the Regional Water Authority .
It is our goal to reduce workplace injuries to zero.

Regional Water Authority

UNAPPROVED DRAFT

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

Minutes of March 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, March 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:	K. Curseaden
	Management:	S. Lakshminarayanan and J. Triana
	RPB Staff:	J. Slubowski

Chair Betkoski called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Harvey, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the minutes of its February 9, 2022 meeting.

Mr. Triana, the RWA's Real Estate Manager, held a discussion on the 1901 typhoid epidemic and its effect on the New Haven Water Company, which included:

- Epidemic background
- Commonalities
- Impact and disruption on New Haven's water supply
- Emergence of inspections, filtration, and water treatment

Update on *The Land We Need for the Water We Use Program* – Mr. Triana reported:

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

	Current Year	**Previous Year**	**Historical Average**	**Drought Status**
February 28, 2022	97%	89%	82%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
February 2022	4.40	3.83	3.35
Fiscal YTD (6/1/21 – 2/28/22)	38.21	30.16	34.05

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.
- Cheshire - Received draft survey from Juliano for the 30+ unaccounted for acres off of Mountain Rd. Received title report from Murtha. Murtha contacted the town attorney to discuss how to correct the record.
- Cheshire, Ricci property – Contacted Cheshire town staff about progress toward getting the OSWA grant money.

- North Branford, Beech St. and Pomps La. properties (NB 4 and NB 4A) – Forwarded a request from NBLCT to walk the property to Linda. Talked to an abutter on Pomps Lane about the surveying activity.
- Branford, Brushy Plain Rd. (BR 7) – Spoke to Richard Shanahan about the discussion I had with the First Selectman. Forwarded a request from him to walk the property.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 95 Ives St. (HA 13) – Closed on the property. Worked out transferring the electric bill. Working on fixing the assessor's record since they show that the entire 63 acres was conveyed to Butterly. Authorized Juliano to set pins at the corners.
- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Emailed Assistant Town Attorney for a status update, but never got a reply.

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. **Slash wall complete and awaiting gate installation.**
- Seymour - Silvermine Road Slash Wall Harvest (SE 9) – **90% complete.**
- Killingworth - N. Chestnut Hill Patch Cuts, (KI 6) – Not started yet.
  - Casey Cordes first day was February 7th. He worked primarily with assigned onboarding partner, Invasive Species Management Technician, learning properties, procedures, systems, and ongoing operations.
  - Responded to call from Seymour town staff about the harvest on Silvermine Rd.
  - Sent letter to McDonald revoking his firewood permit.
  - Attended walk with Jerry Milne to see DEEP timber sale in Naugatuck SF in Hamden.
  - Prepared permit renewal packets for ~175 commercial or non-commercial firewood harvesting permittees and/or maple tree tapping permittees.

Recreation

- DPH horseback riding permit for Lake Chamberlain was sent for renewal.
- Of two candidates for the recreation positions, only one accepted the offer. Search for additional staff continues.
- Discussed issuance of permit to Air B&B owner.
- Monitored new fishing regulations promulgated by DEEP.
- Entries for the photo contest were received and processed.
- Discussed replacing fence at Clark's Pond fishing area.

	February		January	
	2022	2021	2021	2020
Permit Holders	5,601	6,131	5,605	6,129

Special Activity Permits

- UConn, Dept of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (Dr. Mark Urban) – Research on pond amphibians - Totoket mountain in Northford; ridge north of Lake Gaillard; 60 ponds distributed to the west and east of Big Gulph Brook (3/1/2022 - 3/1/2023)

- McLaren Engineering Group (Craig Plate) – Perform a routine and underwater inspection at Waite Street Bridge over Lake Whitney; contracted by CTDOT to perform the inspection; (2/16/2022).
- North Branford Land Conservation Trust (David Sargent, President) - To allow North Branford Land Conservation Trust board members the opportunity to walk the parcels they intend to purchase Beech Street and Pomps Lane (03/01/2022 – 03/31/2022).
- Yale University School of the Environment- (Dr. Craig R. Brodersen) - Field trips in field botany and forestry. - North Madison Cedar Swamp off of Rt. 80, 2/09/2022 - 5/31/2022 (actual use Spring Semester 2022).
- Allingtown Fire Department (Deputy Chief Michael Esposito) – cold water rescue training, Maltby Lakes, West Haven – 2/14/22 – 2/25/22.
- Bethany Cub Scout Den 1 (Kristine Sullivan) – cub scout hike required three miles, Lake Chamberlain Trails, (2/13/22).
- Krueger-Hadfield Evolutionary Ecology Lab, (Sarah Shainker Connelly) – research focuses on freshwater red algae from streams across the Northeast, Maltby Lakes (4/3/22).
- Stephen Trumbo, Ph.D. (Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UConn Waterbury) - Continue research on the behavior and ecology of burying beetles.- Off Route 42 (near the Cheshire-Bethany-Prospect line) just east of traffic light at Rt.69-Rt. 42 juncture (5/10/2022 – 9/25/2022)

<u>Other items</u>

- Encroachments/agreements –
    - Agricultural agreements – Received Christmas tree report from Cave. Discussed ideas for preventing trespassers entering the fields off of Totoket Rd. in North Branford.
    - East Haven, 167 Saltonstall Parkway (Route 1) (EH 7) – Claims handler contacted Murtha to ask for extension which was granted.
    - Seymour, 8 Maiden La. (SE 3) – Corresponded with new owner of the property regarding the license agreement for parking.
    - North Haven, Rabbit Rock Tank (NO 1) – Contacted by Mobile asking to install generator for emergency power. Started reviewing plans.
    - Hamden, 95 Riverside Dr. (HA 12) – Notified by neighbor that Byrd passed away. Spoke to attorney for Byrd's estate about how the license agreement works.

- Invasive plants – Documented invasive populations in Madison and Bethany. Signed contract for the water chestnut harvesting for this summer.

Invasive Species Documented/Mapped	61 acres
Invasive Species Treated	0 acres

- Deer hunt – Held meeting to discuss safety in 2022 hunt. Secured meeting space for pre-hunt meetings in September 2022. Preparing to send out hunt applications in March of this year.
- Guilford, Rockland Rd gate (GU 15 and 18) – Notified by abutters that the pin of the gate was again cut and the gate was open. Submitted work request to repair.
- Boundaries – Remarked boundaries in Hamden, Bethany, Guilford, North Branford, and East Haven. Worked on encroachment reports for Guilford and East Haven.

- Shingle Hill Tanks site (WH 7) – Responded to question from Elisabeth Moore of CT Farmland Trust about easements and fee simple property we own around the Dwyer property.
- EH 1A and BR 17 property line – Sent information to Engineering about the property line since they were planning on work at the Furnace Pond outflow.

Discussion took place regarding the status of the Derby Tank project and new employees of the RWA's Real Estate department.

The next regular meeting of the committee is on Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:10 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Brian Eitzer, and unanimously carried, the committee meeting adjourned.

_____
Peter Betkoski, Chairman

April 13, 2022
Land Use Committee Meeting

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average	Drought Status
March 31, 2022	97%	96%	91%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
March 2022	2.49	3.43	4.30
Fiscal YTD (6/1/21 – 3/31/22)	40.70	33.59	38.35

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

- Cheshire, adjacent to Bis property – Town Attorney indicated we would need a certificate of title to complete our claim. Murtha staff emailed with 3 options. Set up meeting with Town Attorney to discuss.
- North Branford, Beech St. and Pomps La. properties (NB 4 and NB 4A) – Surveys completed by Bennett. Submitted to town planner who wanted to see draft deeds before allowing splits. Submitted draft deeds by the end of the month.
- Branford, Brushy Plain Rd. (BR 7) – Met with Branford First Selectman and BLT members to walk the property.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 95 Ives St. – Working on fixing the assessor's record. By end of the month, assessor's office said the matter was resolved, but the polygon has not been split on their GIS website. Asked Murtha about getting copies of the deed for the vault.
- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Talked to Assistant Town Attorney and he was still non-committed to providing us with condemnation documents for what property and rights they need.
- Woodbridge, 1029 Johnson Rd – Noticed that the Tarlowski's have started demo at the house.

Forestry Update

- 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. Slash wall complete and awaiting gate installation.
- Seymour - Silvermine Road Slash Wall Harvest (SE 9) – **100% complete. Gate 50% complete.**
- Killingworth - N. Chestnut Hill Patch Cuts, (KI 6) – Not started yet.

  - Attended meeting at the Madison slash wall harvest with CAES and NRCS staff.
  - Coordinated delivery of Christmas tree order.
  - Inspected both slash wall harvests occurring in Madison and Seymour on a weekly basis. Worked with lake crew to install gates.
  - Met with DEEP bat specialist at Lake Gaillard for installation of transponders.
  - Investigated firewood cutting permit infractions at SE 11 tract, including hazard tree, improper felling technique, unauthorized access during mud season and minor road rutting, and cutting of unmarked trees.

Recreation

- Received the renewed DPH horseback riding permit for Lake Chamberlain.
- Submitted comments to the DEEP about the newly proposed changes to the freshwater fishing regulations and how they would affect fishing on our properties.
- Three new 14' aluminum boats were delivered to Lake Saltonstall.
- Walked Parish Farm Rd. property in Branford with land trust member to access possibility of access trail to their property.
- Working with Vermont Systems to fix the issue of the logo not being printed on the permits.
- Reblazed several trails at Lake Hammonasset.
- Annual recreation photo contest was completed.
- New pictogram rule signs for the recreation areas were ordered and received to replace some of the deteriorating signs.
- Two picnic tables were ordered for use at Lake Saltonstall and the Maltby Lakes this season.
- The fishing and boating docks were installed back at Lake Saltonstall in preparation for fishing season.

	March		February	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
Permit Holders	5.712	6,336	5,601	6,131

Special Activity Permits

- Branford Parks & Open Space Authority (Richard Shanahan) – to perform a field inspection of RWA property that may be subject of a sale to The Town of Branford and/or The Branford Land Trust, north of #280 Brushy Plain Road and south of Lidyhites Pond, Branford (3/25/22-4/2/22).
- Resources in Search and Rescue, Inc.-(Ms. Celeste Robitaille and designees)- Training of Search and Rescue K9 teams to locate lost or missing individuals, 20 Rimmon Road, Seymour. (03/14/2022-03/14/2023)
- Resources in Search and Rescue, Inc.-(Ms. Celeste Robitaille and designees)- Training of Search and Rescue K9 teams to locate lost or missing individuals, Two Cornwall Avenue, Prospect, (03/15/2022-03/15/2023)
- West Haven Parks & Recreation – (Ms. Margaret Ruggiero and designees) – Fishing Derby, Maltby Lakes, 5/7/22.
- Western CT Orienteering Club – (Ms. Susan DeWitt and designees) – cross country race on foot, property near Ansonia Nature Center, 2000' to the north of Nature Center with frontage on Rimmon Rd. (Rt. 313) in Seymour, 5/15/22.
- Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (Dr. Chris T. Maier, Agricultural Scientist)-Conduct research on insects, particularly longhorned beetles (continuation of 2021projects), and flower flies and to survey for abnormal emergencies of periodical cicadas, Near Lake Gaillard and Totoket Mountain complex (North Branford); near Beaver Head Road, especially Beaver Head Swamp (Guilford); forest off Dogburn Road (Orange); and along Hosley Avenue (Branford), (3/31/2022 – 11/30/2022)

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
    - East Haven, 181 Barberry Rd. (EH 12) – Juliano completed the map and marking the eastern boundary. Checked in field and talked to abutter responsible for fence over the property line. Sent letters to all abutters involved in the encroachment.
    - East Haven, 167 Saltonstall Parkway (Route 1) (EH 7) – Authorized Murtha staff to start drafting interrogatories and document requests.
    - East Haven, 27 Virginia Rd. (E XX) – Discovered abutter coming into the Farm River-EH property, driving through wetlands, and cutting deadwood. RWA police talked to the abutter.

- North Branford, Skylark Dr./Old Mountain Rd. (GU 9) – Sent letters to abutters with items on our side of the road. Offered them license agreements. Spoke to Kirschner and he said everything was moved.
- Seymour, 8 Maiden La. (SE 3) – Executed license agreement with Arbour for parking on our property.

- Invasive plants – Documented and/or treated invasive populations in Woodbridge, Bethany, and Guilford. Discussed using our outside contractor money to have Charter Oak remove invasives around some of the sediment detention basins in Hamden. ISMT attended a soil carbon meeting with the CAES and USDA and a Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey meeting.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	41.75 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	1 acres

- Deer hunt – Applications are being received. NRA gave summary of the 2021 deer hunt to the FMA's Environmental Health and Safety committee.
- Boundaries – Remarked boundaries in Hamden, Bethany, Guilford, North Branford, and East Haven. Worked on encroachment reports for Guilford and East Haven.
- Boundaries – Remarked boundaries in Bethany, Killingworth, Woodbridge, Hamden, and East Haven.
- Yale Golf Course – Performed site visit to verify which parts of the course drained to the Maltby Lakes.
- Lake Whitney view (HA 9) – Spoke with property owner at 6 Waite St., Hamden about seedling trees growing on our property obscuring his side view of the lake.
- North Branford ATV ordinance – Notified by NBLCT member that the ordinance was passed by the town council.

Attachments

- March 3, 2022 - Lamont, in visit to New Haven, announces bill that would provide $70 million for lead abatement - New Haven Register
- March 8, 2022 - Aquarion Water Company To Acquire The Torrington Water Company – Aquarion Press release
- March 18, 2022 - WOODS 'N' WATER: This 'trash fish' is actually a treasure – Record Journal
- March 17, 2022 - Half of U.S. waters don't meet law's base standards: report – eenews.com
- March 17, 2022 - Where Rising Seas Threaten Drinking Water, Scientists Look for Affordable Solutions – Scientific American
- March 23, 2022 - Connecticut lawmakers advance bill requiring well testing on home sales – CT Insider

Upcoming Agenda Items

May 2022 –

Lamont, in visit to New Haven, announces bill that would provide $70 million for lead abatement

Mark Zaretsky – NH Register - March 3, 2022

NEW HAVEN — Lead paint has been a problem affecting the health and development of children, particularly minority and poor children, for too long and it's time for the state to step up and do more to help, Gov. Ned Lamont, Mayor Justin Elicker and other officials said Thursday.

"We're beginning to make a down payment to see what we can do to get the lead out of these old buildings," said Lamont, surrounded by about 20 preschool children as he announced a proposed new $70 million, federally-funded program to fund local inspection and abatement efforts.

He made the announcement in the Catholic Charities St. Francis & St. Rose of Lima Child Development Center at 425 Ferry St. in the Fair Haven section, thanking U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-3, for her work to land the funds. The building, adjacent to St. Francis Church, is in use now because of lead abatement work done in 2018, said Lamont and child development center Director Martha Canas.

"For too long, Connecticut has failed to address the problem of lead poisoning in our children, a problem that impacts most deeply minority families and disadvantaged communities of our state," Lamont in a subsequent release. "Childhood lead poisoning has catastrophic impacts on health and development, including irreversible learning and developmental disabilities."

Two years ago, "2,994 young children had enough lead in their blood that the CDC would have recommended an investigation of their homes," Lamont said. "Our statutes required only 120 investigations. That means thousands of children are not receiving the treatment and health interventions that they need. Connecticut's standards for lead testing and treatment fall well behind the best practices and the time is now to take action."

The General Assembly's Public Health Committee will hold a public hearing on House Bill 5045 on Monday at 9 a.m. Lamont urged people to contact their legislators or write a letter to the committee to express their support.

Elicker, father of a 3-year-old and a 7-year-old, said "it's really exciting to be here to talk about one of the most exciting things we can do" to support young people. He praised Lamont both for introducing a plan to combat lead and for putting up money to back it up. "The governor is making a very strong statement to ensure that all the children have the support that they need," he said. "In New Haven, we have seen for many, many years the impact that has" on young children — particularly children in poorer neighborhoods who often are minorities, Elicker said, pointing out that lead's effects are permanent, including leading to impaired cognitive ability. The problem, at least in New Haven, primarily is lead paint rather than lead-tainted water, Elicker said.

He talked about the fear he feels as a father when he brings his children to the pediatrician to be tested for lead and said New Haven has worked hard under the leadership of the New Haven Lead Task Force and Director of Health Maritza Bond to lower the risks to children. The city has increased the numbers of inspectors it has working, improved and modernized its record-keeping and digitized its lead inspection and abatement records, Elicker said. Bond, who grew up on Clay Street in Fair Haven, not far from the child development center, called the governor's announcement "a momentous occasion for me," and said "it's an immense pleasure to be in support of House Bill 5045," which she called "an immense step forward." "I strongly support this bill," Bond said.

Dr. Erin Nozetz, chairwoman of the New Haven Lead Task Force, said that as a pediatrician, "I have seen first-hand the effects lead has had on children" in New Haven. She said lead toxicity inordinately affects minority populations. "I don't know about you, but that infuriates me," Nozetz said. She said "now is the time for Connecticut to do what is necessary" to combat lead toxicity and "to stop using children as lead detectors."

Canas said "we want to be sure that we have a lead-safe" atmosphere "for all the children." "I really appreciate all the help that we have had from the Health Department," she said.

April Capone, director of public affairs for the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, said Connecticut, along with Rhode Island, has exceeded federal standards ever since the federal Environmental Protection Agency first passed standards in the 1970s.

The authority is responsible for delivering healthy water to the streets in front of homes and it is working to inventory what improvements must be made on the private side, which brings water from the street into people's houses. The authority directs property owners to state programs that can help pay for any improvements they make, she said. But "the water coming to your home is safe," she said.

Manisha Juthani, the new commissioner of the state Department of Public Health, also pointed out that lead toxicity damage is permanent and said the state needs children's homes and schools to be safe. "Look at these kids," she said. "... We have to take care of them."

Aquarion Water Company To Acquire The Torrington Water Company

News provided by Aquarion Water Company - Mar 08, 2022

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., March 8, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- Aquarion Company (Aquarion), parent of Aquarion Water Company, and The Torrington Water Company (TWC) (OTC Pink Sheets Trading Symbol: TORW) today announced that they have entered into a definitive agreement whereby Aquarion will acquire all outstanding shares of TWC, and TWC will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Aquarion. Aquarion is a water distribution company and holding company based in Bridgeport, Connecticut, providing regulated water service to customers in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. TWC is a water distribution company based in Torrington, Connecticut providing regulated water service to Connecticut customers in Torrington and to portions of Burlington, Harwinton, Litchfield, and New Hartford.

Under the agreement, which was unanimously approved by the Boards of Directors of both Aquarion and TWC, the acquisition will be executed through a stock-for-stock transaction that is structured to be a tax-free reorganization. The agreement provides that the stockholders of TWC will receive common shares of Aquarion's parent, Eversource Energy (Eversource) (NYSE: ES), in exchange for their TWC common stock. The exchange ratio implies a $92.81 per share price based on the $86.66 closing price of Eversource Energy common shares on March 7, 2022. In connection with the exchange, Eversource Energy will issue between 885,000 and 925,000 ES common shares at closing. TWC has assets of approximately $65 million.

The merger will add approximately 10,100 customers to Aquarion's base of 226,000 customers. TWC's service area will complement Aquarion's existing footprint in the northwestern part of the Connecticut. Under the agreement, all TWC employees will be retained.

"Both Aquarion and TWC can trace their local water service roots back to the 1800s. This merger will ensure this history lives on and continues to create long-term benefits for customers, employees, and the communities we serve," said Donald Morrissey, President of Aquarion Water Company. "We will make the needed investments in this water system to ensure continued reliability and water quality for decades to come. We also welcome TWC's dedicated employees to the Aquarion team."

Over the last ten years, Aquarion has integrated over 84 water systems into its operations, strengthening the company's ability to deliver high-quality water to communities throughout the region.

"I am pleased with the transaction, as TWC and Aquarion share many common values and strategies, and look forward to working with Aquarion's leadership team on a smooth transition for our customers and employees," said Susan Suhanovsky, President of The Torrington Water Company. She also noted, "Aquarion values TWC's rich history and will continue our tradition of delivering reliable, high-quality water service to our customers."

The completion of the transaction will require approval by the stockholders of TWC, and the TWC Board of Directors has resolved to recommend the adoption of the merger agreement by the stockholders. The transaction is also subject to the approval of the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, and satisfaction of several other customary conditions. The parties plan to file all required regulatory applications over the coming months with an anticipated closing by the end of 2022.

About Aquarion Water Company: Aquarion Water Company is the public water supply company for more than 700,000 people in 68 cities and towns in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. It is the largest investor-owned water utility in New England and among the seven largest in the U.S. Based in Bridgeport, CT, Aquarion has been in the public water supply business since 1857. Across its operations, Aquarion strives to act as a responsible steward of the environment and to assist the communities it serves in promoting sustainable practices. Aquarion Water Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Eversource. For more information on Aquarion Water Company, please visit www.aquarionwater.com or www.facebook.com/aquarionwater.

About The Torrington Water Company: Formed in 1873, The Torrington Water Company is a regulated public water utility that provides water service to just over 10,000 customers, or about 37,000 people, in 5 towns. Located in Torrington, CT, TWC's 18 employees and Board of Directors pride themselves on excellent customer service, environmental stewardship, and community involvement. For more information on The Torrington Water Company, please visit www.torringtonwater.com.

WOODS 'N' WATER: This 'trash fish' is actually a treasure

March 18, 2022 – Record Journal

It was quite a few years ago that I was fishing a small pond off of Route 17 called Dooley Pond. Back then not too many folks bothered to fish Dooley Pond, although there was a state-owned boat launch and parking area. You could also rent a row boat for about a dollar from the farm folks who owned some of the land around the pond.

Even though I was told by more "knowledgeable" fishermen that certain species of fish were considered undesirable or "trash fish," I enjoyed fishing and catching any fish.

One day I was in one of the rented boats under the high line that crosses Dooley Pond and I got a heck of a strike on a lure I was using, The boat was not anchored and whatever it was on the end of my line had the strength to turn the boat in different directions as it fought to get free. After a tussle that lasted a couple of minutes, I was able to bring the fish into the boat. I was dismayed to see that it was "only" a white perch about 13 inches in length. You see, back then I was taught that a white perch was a "trash fish," not even worthy of the effort it takes to catch one.

It wasn't too long before I had to change the way I thought about catching white perch. Nor did it take too long for me to change my mind about "trash fish," because I was brought up with a fishing rod in my hands. Of course, back then it was a much safer world than the one we now have, with kids disappearing off the streets. I had only a short walk up in back of our home on Hanover Street to a small pond located in a local picnic spot called "Morin's Grove." It had all kinds of so-called "trash fish" in it, many of them undersized sunfish, suckers and bullheads, but for a kid this little pond provided loads of fishing fun, and this is what fishing is supposed to be all about.

Sad to say, this has all changed with many species of fish being targeted in big-money fishing contests, but I guess this is now the nature of the world we live in. I really feel sorry for some of the kids who have not had a chance to experience the joy of just fishing for the fun of it.

But back to the white perch I caught. At the time I did not know that the white perch frequents saltwater as well as freshwater, and in reality is not really a perch, but a distant relative to our famous striped bass.

There are virgin trout ponds in some of our northern states that carry a heavy fine for anyone trying to introduce white perch into those waters. I see nothing wrong in this. However, in a spot like Dooley Pond, they provided some exciting fishing as well as excellent table fare.

My next encounter with white perch happened on a family trip to a spot up in Maine called Molasses Pond. We had a cottage for a week there and had all of the kids, Michael, Keith, George and Kyle with us and spent quite a bit of time on the lake fishing. The most cooperative fish were the white perch. They gave the kids a good tussle for their money and were a ton of fun to catch using live bait. I have also told you about my previous encounters with white perch at Hamburg Cove in Old Lyme, but it did not end there.

I began spending some time on Lake Saltonstall, a beautiful pristine lake on the Branford-East Haven line owned and run by the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority. Over the years,I had heard rumors of the terrific fishing available at Saltonstall, but just never seemed to find the time to try it.

I finally got to fish Lake Saltonstall, which also has a boat livery run by the Regional Water Authority. If you want to fish from a boat you have to use one of theirs, although you can use your own electric trolling motor. No private boats are allowed and no gas engines are allowed on Saltonstall. While I had targeted some of the walleye population I'd heard about being caught at Saltonstall, I was totally unprepared for the white perch I caught there.

Once again, I was in an area that had some high lines going across the lake when I got my first white perch. At first, I thought I had hooked up with a walleye because of the fight the fish was giving me, but much to my surprise it was huge (and tasty) white perch. As luck would have it, walleyes would escape me that day, but I made up for it with a catch of about six white perch, all of them in the 13-inch range. I have also seen some nice white perch caught at South Cove in Old Saybrook, where the tide runs under the road. We caught them on Castmaster lures and they were also a lot of fun to catch.

Sad to say, the fun of fishing has been lost for many kids for a host of reasons. For kids, fishing is supposed to be a fun outing. They are not professionals that have to hook up with a trophy every cast. This year, let's see more kids fishing and enjoying our great outdoors. I can tell you that there is one heck of a kid's fishing event coming to Mirror Lake in May. More on that later.

Half of U.S. waters don't meet law's base standards: report

By Hannah Northey | 03/17/2022 – www.eenews.com

A lack of federal enforcement, outdated pollution standards and chronic budget cuts have kept EPA and states from reaching ambitious goals under the Clean Water Act for cleaning up U.S. waterways five decades after the landmark law was enacted, according to a new report.

Despite EPA's vow to ensure "fishable, swimmable" waters across the nation by 1983 and eliminate pollution flowing into navigable waters by 1985, an analysis of recent data released today shows the agency has not met those Clean Water Act obligations.

"Today, almost four decades after the Clean Water Act's deadline for 'fishable and swimmable' waters across the U.S., 50 percent of assessed river and stream miles across the U.S. — more than 700,000 miles of waterways — remain impaired with pollution, as well as 55 percent of lake acres and 25 percent of estuary miles," wrote authors from the Environmental Integrity Project, a nonprofit launched by former EPA attorneys in 2002. An EPA spokesperson said the agency is aware of and reviewing the report.

Overall, the report shows that more than half the nation's lake acres that have been studied in recent years and 25 percent of the assessed bays and estuaries are impaired, meaning they cannot be used safely for one or more public uses, including swimming, fishing or as a source of drinking water.

Indiana, according to the analysis, has the most impaired river and stream miles out of all states, followed closely by Oregon, South Carolina, Michigan and California. Comparatively, Florida ranks first in the nation for total acres of lakes classified as impaired for swimming and aquatic life — or 873,340 acres — and second for total lake acres listed as impaired for any use, according to the report. But authors of the study also warned that key data is missing from states where funding for environmental monitoring has been slashed in recent years.

"The true extent of the nation's water pollution is unknown because few states monitor all their waterways," they wrote. "Due to limited funding and budget cuts, many state environmental agencies do not have the staff to test all their waters within mandated time periods — usually between six and 10 years, depending on state rules."

Exactly what's plaguing the nation's waterways ranges from toxins and runoff to warming weather, authors told reporters during a call today. Eric Schaeffer, EIP's executive director and former director of civil enforcement at EPA, said climate change is a major factor in states like Oregon where a number of streams are impaired because they've gotten too warm, while states like Indiana are facing a deluge of agricultural and industrial runoff but also took a closer look than other states at waterways there. "This is an area where the more you look, the more you'll find," said Schaeffer. EIP laid out seven recommendations for boosting the effectiveness of the Clean Water Act both at EPA and on Capitol Hill. Schaeffer said EPA and states need better tools to enforce the Clean Water Act, including "more funding, stronger enforcement, and better control of farm runoff to clean up waters that are still polluted after half a century."

EPA must more frequently update technology-based limits for industry water pollution control systems, the authors wrote. "Despite a legal mandate for reviews of these discharge limits at least every five years, highly-polluting industries like chemical manufacturing have not had their standards updated since the 1970s — back when 'modern' technology meant computers with floppy disks," the authors wrote.

By 2022, two-thirds of EPA's industry-specific water pollution limits have not been updated in more than three decades, according to the report, even though the Clean Water Act requires such reviews every five years to keep pace with advances in treatment technology. EIP said the lack of current standards translates into more pollution from oil refineries, chemical plants, slaughterhouses and other industries.

The authors also called on Congress to strengthen the Clean Water Act by closing its loophole for agricultural runoff and other "non-point" sources of pollution, which they said are by far the largest sources of impairments in waterways across the U.S. According to the report, the Clean Water Act never contained explicit controls for runoff or "non-point source" pollution from farms, suburban lawns and parking lots, with Congress instead deferring to states to tackle the problem.

Congress and EPA, EIP said, must also impose more consistent, universal guidelines for waterway impairment designations for states and make it easier to enforce tens of thousands of pollution diets or "total maximum daily loads" across the nation.

States on tap to receive funds through the $1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure law should also target that money to controlling water pollution, while Congress and states should boost funding for EPA and state environmental agency staff needed to measure and address water pollution. Lastly, authors called on EPA to set interim goals to achieve 100 percent "fishable and swimmable," as well as enforceable plans.

Where Rising Seas Threaten Drinking Water, Scientists Look for Affordable Solutions

Researchers are looking to identify areas facing saltwater intrusion on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts

By Daniel Cusick, Scientific American; E&E News on March 17, 2022

Rising oceans bring more than high tides and nuisance flooding to coastal zones. They also carry salt water into inland aquifers where dissolved salts can spoil drinking water.

A new research effort at the University of Pennsylvania aims to identify vulnerable water systems along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts where rising seas pose water quality risks and develop strategies that can make utilities more resilient to saltwater intrusion.

“I think when people typically consider sea-level rise, they have visions of coastal erosion or coastal roads going underwater, or maybe things like the weakening of structural supports of buildings like the Surfside condominium that collapsed in Miami,” Allison Lassiter, assistant professor of city and regional planning at Penn and the principal investigator behind the research effort, said in a telephone interview.

“People are less often considering the potential impacts on drinking water,” she said.

Coastal communities are often in the fastest-growing areas of the country, where rising seas are already damaging homes, businesses and infrastructure, mostly from street flooding.

There are also human costs.

“Besides being unpleasant to drink, salinized water can harm vulnerable populations, including people with hypertension and pregnant women,” Lassiter said.

While approaches exist to address encroaching seas on water supplies—from dikes and sea walls to desalination plants—the costs and geographic constraints of such projects are growing. Some water utilities lack the resources to finance such projects, experts say.

“Quite honestly, they’re just trying to keep the system running,” said David Totman, a groundwater hydrologist and past president of the American Society of Civil Engineers’ Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute.

Lassiter and her colleagues argue there are more innovative and affordable ways to address the risks of saltwater intrusion, including the use of distributed water systems that use advanced sensors and wireless networks to identify salinity spikes and help water managers switch to alternative sources when necessary.

Experts call such approaches “smart water systems,” noting they could be ideal for utilities with single drinking water intakes or those that are heavily indebted or have relatively few ratepayers. The approach adheres to a planning principle called “safe-to-fail,” which means systems are designed with backup contingencies.

“This research could help figure out where would these distributed systems make sense,” said Totman, who is not involved with the Penn research and is a private-sector executive with Innovyze, a California technology firm.

Experts note that saltwater intrusion is not a new problem, and sea-level rise will only accelerate the problem for many coastal communities where potable water resources are already strained.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, groundwater salinity levels are rising for multiple reasons, including overuse of deep aquifers by water utilities and agricultural users. Those stresses will only grow as other climate change impacts—notably heat and drought—extend to areas that have historically had adequate water supplies.

“In Florida, saltwater has intruded into groundwater supplies through different compounding ways,” USGS said in a 2019 assessment of saltwater intrusion and implications for water users.

“Saltwater has encroached into aquifers because fresh groundwater levels have decreased relative to sea level, allowing higher gradient water to flow toward the freshwater,” USGS said. “Also, leaking saltwater inland canals, leakage between aquifers, or even upwelling of saltwater from depth also have impacted freshwater aquifers.”

Lassiter said her research will examine saltwater intrusion in communities from New Jersey to Texas with a particular focus on rural and lower-income areas that may be feeling multiple climate change impacts.

“We still have a lot of research to do on what is realistic and affordable and useful to water agencies,” Lassiter said. “Certainly, different environmental and social conditions will determine what’s the right strategy in different places.”

Connecticut lawmakers advance bill requiring well testing on home sales

John Moritz – CT Insider - March 23, 2022

Efforts to cut down on well-water contamination in Connecticut through mandatory testing and increased accountability for polluters advanced swiftly through the legislature's Public Health Committee on Tuesday.

The committee passed two pieces of legislation related to wells, the most controversial of which would require testing for more than a dozen contaminants and other factors on private wells whenever the property is sold or transferred to another owner.

That proposal has drawn scrutiny from the real estate industry as well as Republicans on the committee, who argued that the expense of testing would increase the cost of homes and should be left up to the decisions of the buyers and sellers.

"By no means do we intend to inhibit or interfere with the sale of homes, we just think that at least periodically people ought to know what are in these wells," said state Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, D- Westport, who co-chairs the Public Health Committee.

The Democratic-controlled committee passed the legislation along a party-line vote, sending it to the House floor with promises to attempt to ease the concerns of Realtors.

The second piece of legislation, a bill that would require polluters to pay for the costs associated with replacing or repairing private wells contaminated by their actions, proved less controversial and was passed by the committee without opposition.

Well water contamination has become an increasing concern for Connecticut residents in rural areas without access to public water supplies, state public health officials told lawmakers during a hearing earlier this week.

Common sources of contamination include road salts that leach into the ground, toxic PFAS chemicals that are used in firefighting foams and even arsenic that can be linked to apple orchards.

There are nearly 322,000 private wells in Connecticut that provide drinking water to nearly a quarter of the state's population, according to the Department of Public Health. A 2016 study by the U.S. Geological Survey found that the state has a "very high prevalence" of corrosivity in untreated groundwater.

"This legislation will enable DPH to merge private and semipublic well water data with existing public drinking water system data to determine trends and locations with drinking water quality and quantity needs," Department of Public Health Commissioner Manisha Juthani said in testimony submitted to lawmakers.

Opponents of mandatory well testing, however, noted that testing is already a common practice during home sales, and that forcing the cost of the tests onto buyers at a time when inventory is already limited could put some houses out of reach for middle and lower-income residents.

"When you sell a house, that is part of the negotiations, you have it checked and if it's bad they decide if it's coming off the price or who's paying for it," said state Rep. Lezlye Zupkas, R- Prospect. "I don't believe it's the government's place to be in between the buyers and the sellers."

The legislation approved by the committee Wednesday did not place any restrictions on the sale of homes with contaminated well water, and Steinberg said it would still be up to the buyers and sellers to determine what to do if contamination is discovered through testing.

Steinberg and other Democrats argued that many first-time homebuyers — especially those moving from larger cities — may not be aware of the risks of contaminated well water, and that discovering the issue early can make it more affordable to fix the problem.

"When they're saying you don't have to fix anything in your home to be able to sell it, there are a lot of unintended consequences of these sales that happen so fast," said state Rep. Eleni Kavros DeGraw, D- Avon.

The committee did not take action on a third bill addressing water contamination that was discussed earlier in the week. That legislation would require state regulators to weigh in on the location of solar facilities that could impact public water supplies.