

**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. 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)

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>	<b>Historical Average</b>	<b>Drought Status</b>
February 28, 2022	97%	89%	82%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>	<b>Historical Average</b>
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 Poms La. properties (NB 4 and NB 4A) – Forwarded a request from NBLCT to walk the property to Linda. Talked to an abutter on Poms 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 Poms 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 Shinker 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)

Other items

- 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 – Remarkd 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.

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Peter Betkoski, Chairman