

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

Minutes of April 13, 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, April 13, 2022, at the Madison Slash Wall, Route 70 and Durham Road, Madison, 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: K. Curseaden

Management: S. Lakshminarayanan and J. Triana

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, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the minutes of its March 9, 2022 meeting, as corrected.

Mr. Triana, the RWA’s Real Estate Manager, introduced Mr. Cordes, the RWA’s Forester II, who provided an update of the Madison slash wall timber update, which included:

- Slash wall harvest
- Gate installation
- Maintenance
- Intrusion preventative
- CT Agricultural Experiment Station and Natural Resources Conservation Service meetings

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
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 –	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 Poms 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 2021 projects), 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 – Remarkd boundaries in Hamden, Bethany, Guilford, North Branford, and East Haven. Worked on encroachment reports for Guilford and East Haven.
- Boundaries – Remarkd 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.

There were no other land items to report.

Chair Betkoski reported on upcoming meetings of the Land Use Committee:

- a. Monday, April 18, 2022 at 5:30 (joint meeting with CAC to review FY 2023 Budget)
- b. Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

At 6:28 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Ms. Young, and unanimously carried, the committee meeting adjourned.

Peter Betkoski, Chairman