

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

Minutes of June 8, 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, June 8, 2022, at Maltby Lakes, 585 Derby Avenue, West Haven, Connecticut. Acting Harvey Betkoski presided.

Committee Members: P. Betkoski, P. DeSantis, B. Eitzer, R. Harvey, M. Horbal, M. Levine, G. Malloy, and J. Oslander

Authority: C. LaMarr

Management: S. Lakshminarayanan and J. Triana

Staff: J. Slubowski

In Chair Betkoski’s absence, Mr. Harvey called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Mr. Eitzer, seconded by Mr. Oslander, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the minutes of its May 11, 2022 meeting.

Mr. Triana, the RWA’s Real Estate Manager, provided historical background of Maltby Lakes, which included information on the natural watershed locations and the Trout brook diversion. He stated that there are three lakes including the spillway to Rte. 34, and a second and third lake, which are the same elevation. Mr. Triana noted that much of the water supply comes from the Wepawaug watershed but is an inactive water supply as related to use in the service territory. He provided highlights of the recreation program and stated that Maltby Lakes is the most popular recreation area in the program.

Mr. Triana also provided background of Kaleb Maltby, whom the lakes were named after and his association with oyster harvesting and mining in the area. He discussed the collapse of the Wepawaug tunnel in 1909, burial grounds located in the area and use of the land by the Yale School of Forestry during the first half of the twentieth century.

At 5:53 p.m., Chair Betkoski entered the meeting.

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
May 31, 2022	96%	97%	93%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
May 2022	2.24	5.08	3.92
Fiscal YTD	46.81	42.26	46.54

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

- Cheshire, adjacent to Bis property – Discussed valuation to be used with the appraiser. Murtha still working on the affidavit.

- North Branford, Beech St. and Poms La. properties (NB 4) – Asked Murtha for update on status of the draft MOA. No word as of the end of the month. Worked on the disposition applications. Expect to submit to the FMA in June.
- Madison, Old Toll Rd. and Summer Hill Rd. properties – Received final payment from the Madison Land Conservation Trust for the two properties sold to them in 2017. Issued letter to MLCT acknowledging the note was paid in full.

Rental houses:

- (nothing to report)

Forestry Update

- Killingworth - East Hammonasset Leaf Screen Thinning, (KI 4) – 25% complete.
- Hamden - Overstory removal and Tornado Salvage, (HA 36) – Not started yet. **Executed change order to extend deadline.**
- Madison - Nathan’s Pond Slash Wall Harvest (MA 6) – 95% complete. **Seeded landing.**
- Seymour - Silvermine Road Slash Wall Harvest (SE 9) – 100% complete. **Addressed remaining invasive plants. Seeded landing.**
- Killingworth - N. Chestnut Hill Patch Cuts, (KI 6) – Not started yet.
 - Several fire departments responded to a brush fire in Prospect behind houses on Cornwall Ave. Supplied woods road maps to the town.
 - Met former judge at Haddad Rd. timber sale to show him the slash wall and address his comments.
 - Conducted planting of pitch pine seedlings at Lake Gaillard in an on-going afforestation project above the gatehouse.
 - Seeded landings at the slash wall, timber harvests in Seymour and North Madison with conservation mix, including spreading weed-free mulch.

Recreation

- Completed reblazing trails at Genesee. Cleared trails at Genesee and Hammonasset.
- Kids fishing derby was held at Maltby Lakes with 8 participants.
- Issued another gift certificate for a tagged trout at Maltby Lakes.
- Installed new picnic tables at Maltby Lakes and Lake Saltonstall.
- Met with NBLCT members to inspect the bridge and trail coming from the Harrison Preserve.
- Discussed correcting New England Trail locations at Genesee with CFP staff.
- Revoked one permit for an angler using live bait at Lake Saltonstall.
- Investigated anglers fishing after dusk at Lake Saltonstall.
- Answered question from Woodbridge Conservation Commissioner about who maintains the Woodbridge Greenway.
- Corresponded with UConn staff about adding our trail data to a website they are building.
- Hired Jessica Shanley for the recreation staff over the summer.

	May		April	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
Permit Holders	5,676	6,337	5,792	6,502

Special Activity Permits

- The Eli Whitney Museum and Workshop (Mr. Ryan Paxton, Museum Director)-will learn the basics of ciphers and codes, how they can hide secrets, and how those secrets can be

revealed. Drone will send live feed to a closed circuit for campers to surveille the land, 915 Whitney Avenue (8/2/22 – 8/4/22)

- New Haven Bird Club (Mr. Patrick T. Leahy and designees)-Spring Bird Walk to observe species that nest in the bluebird/tree swallow boxes, Lake Chamberlain and Lake Watrous, (5/17/2023)
- Bimble's Bluff 50K (Russell Hammond) - Annual 50K foot race - Use of trails through Genesee Preserve north of Guilford (10/23/22)

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Agricultural agreements – Met potential farmer at Parish Farm Rd. fields in Branford. Verified with the Cave's that they will continue the license agreement for Christmas trees by North St.
 - Bethany, Bethany Horsemen agreement – Executed annual agreement with BH.
 - Woodbridge/Orange (WO 14/OR 7) – Met with Yale Golf Course staff about increased trespassing of mountain bikers at Maltby Lakes.
 - East Haven, 167 Saltonstall Parkway (Route 1) (EH 7) – Reviewed documents from Lucido that Murtha forwarded. Murtha submitted our replies. Noticed that the property was for sale and then listed as “under contract” according to the MLS. Worked with Murtha staff to file affidavit for pre-judgement decision prior to the sale of the house.
 - East Haven, 27 Virginia Rd. (EH 3) – Sent letter to Coscenzo. Materials still over the line as of the end of the month.
 - Madison, (MA 12) – Kuck called and said the fence was moved to the property line.
 - Madison, Devonshire Dr. (MA 3) – Sent letters to two abutters about a tree stand that is on RWA behind their houses.
 - Hamden, Blake Rd (HA 32) – Roche sold property to Iscoe and Ledbetter. Signed new license agreement with them for use of the property and maintaining the sidewalk.
 - Woodbridge, 539 Amity Rd. (WO 7) – Stein sold property to Rivellini. Signed new license agreement with him for the patio and lawn area.
 - East Haven, 9 Pardee Place (EH 6) – Contacted abutter (East Haven Memorial Funeral Home) about numerous encroachments coming from their property,
 - North Branford, 438 Sea Hill Road (NB 4) – Discovered and documented encroachment
 - Trespassing – Forwarded many instances of trespassing to LT members including mountain bikes at Maltby Lakes, ATV's and dumping in Woodbridge, tree stands in North Branford and Madison, burglary and vandalism at Lake Menunketuc, ATV's and dirt bikes in North Branford, and Sugarloaf recreation gate being sawn in half.
- Invasive plants – Documented and/or treated invasive populations in North Branford, Woodbridge, Hamden, Seymour, Orange, and West Haven. Cut the knotweed at the Davis St. sediment basin in Hamden. Branford Land Trust staff reported that water chestnuts were removed from the property they recently acquired on Todds Hill Rd. Hosted walk at the Madison slashwall harvest for CIPWG members to discuss non-herbicide management options for controlling invasive species by limiting deer browse. Hosted walk at Lake Chamberlain for CIPWG members to show off four plant species that could potentially be invasive.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	99.5 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	5 acres

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- Deer hunt – Ran the lottery after all applications received. There are 192 hunt participants this year; 139 at Lake Gaillard, 25 at Bethany, 20 at Prospect, and 8 at Ansonia/Seymour.
- Boundaries – Remarkd boundaries in Killingworth, Hamden, Seymour, Bethany and Woodbridge.
- East Haven, Beach Ave. watermain – Received two more easement documents. Still waiting for documents from two property owners.
- Cell phone towers – North Haven, Rabbit Rock Tank (NO 1) – Continued discussion with T-Mobile about sharing a generator at this site. Reviewed updated plans from T-Mobile and sent them comments. Sent them a draft amendment to the agreement.
- Rare species reporting – Corresponded with State Botanist about narrow-leaved vervain found at Lake Gaillard last year.
- Prospect Reservoir – Met with Mayor Chatfield and Bob Harvey to talk about the issues at the dam and future potential scenarios for the Prospect System.
- Water main break, Paradise Ave. and West Shepard Rd., Hamden – Corresponded with town staff about the status of the town ROW where the water main break occurred.
- Rats near Lake Whitney – Responded to email from nearby resident of Lake Whitney complaining that we were the cause of a recent rat outbreak in their neighborhood. Explained that we have not altered the management of our property.

The Committee discussed trespassing on RWA’s property, environmental looting, and the need for more Police to monitor the areas.

Mr. Lakshminarayanan also reported that work on the Derby Tank is scheduled to begin next week.

Mr. Harvey notified members that the July meeting would include the appointment of Election of Committee Chair.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Members commented that they would like an in-depth update on invasive species control and water chestnut harvesting at Furnace Pond in Branford.

At 6:39 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Eitzer, and unanimously carried, the committee meeting adjourned.

Robert E. Harvey, Jr., Acting Chairman