

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

**Minutes of May 11, 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, May 11, 2022, at the Waite Street Garden in Hamden, Connecticut. Chair Betkoski presided.

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

**RPB Members:** S. Mongillo

**Authority:** C. LaMarr

**Management:** J. Triana and R. Walters

**Staff:** J. Slubowski

Chair Betkoski called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

Mr. Walters, the RWA’s Senior Environmental Analyst, provided an overview of the Pollinator Pathways Gardens, which included:

- Background
- Locations
- Planting & germinating process
- Collaborations and partnerships
- Effect on water storage protection and quality
- Three year plan

At 4:58 p.m., Mr. Walters withdrew from the meeting.

On motion made by Mr. Levine, seconded by Mr. Malloy, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the minutes of its April 13, 2022 and April 18, 2022 meetings.

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>
April 30, 2022	98%	98%	94%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>	<b>Historical Average</b>
April 2022	3.87	3.59	4.26
Fiscal YTD (6/1/21 –	44.57	37.18	42.62

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

- Cheshire, adjacent to Bis property – Murtha staff stated they would draft an affidavit for this matter. Talked to appraiser to get general value of the ~30 acres. Juliano circulated latest draft of the survey.
- North Branford, Beech St. and Poms La. properties (NB 4 and NB 4A) – Contacted Beth Evans to create the new preliminary assessment. Town Planner indicated that he would sign

the surveys. Later, he stated that we needed to submit the executed deeds with the maps in order for him to release and us to record. Informed him that the deeds would not be ready for many months. Discussed the matter with Murtha and our surveyor and determined to move ahead with the disposition application without the parcels carved out yet.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 95 Ives St. – Received hardcopies of the closing documents and filed in the vault.
- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Talked to Assistant Town Attorney multiple times about the condemnation. He was still researching it, not believing that it was possible. I supplied more information to him about the Seymour condemnation and asked him to contact Fred Stanek.
- Woodbridge, 1029 Johnson Rd – Found stolen doors on our property behind the house. Alerted the Tarlowski’s.

Forestry Update

- Killingworth - East Hammonasset Leaf Screen Thinning, (KI 4) – 25% complete.
- Hamden - Overstory removal and Tornado Salvage, (HA 36) – Not started yet. **Summer start time is anticipated.**
- 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 complete.**
- Killingworth - N. Chestnut Hill Patch Cuts, (KI 6) – Not started yet.
  - Planted Christmas tree seedlings in Great Hill Rd. field at Lake Gaillard.
  - Processed annual firewood renewals.
  - Dealt with drainage issues at the Seymour slash wall harvest at Haddad Rd. Operations put asphalt patch in potholes by the landing.
  - ISMT conducted a drone flight to create a map and get some photographs of the Seymour slash wall harvest.
  - Conducted field tour for Yale School of the Environment masters students in a Forest Health Class to discuss management concerns and options in stands suffering significant mortality from beech leaf disease and LDD impacts.

Recreation

- Responded to Yale student about her shooting part of a film at Lake Saltonstall.
- New signs for each recreation area were placed at six sites in April.
- Completed reblazing at Lake Hammonasset and started reblazing at Genesee.
- Continued to recruit people for the recreation staff. Rental boat days will be reduced for May. We are only able to offer boats on Fri., Sat., and Sun.
- Boat rentals started on April 30.
- Six people attended hike at Pine Hill on April 23.
- 1,800 trout were stocked at the Maltby Lakes.
- Two tagged trout were caught at Maltby Lakes and gift certificates were issued.

	April		March	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
Permit Holders	5,792	6,502	5,712	6,336

Special Activity Permits

- CTDEEP (Dr. Min Huang) – mallard nesting study; Maltby Lakes (4/4/2022-7/31/2022)

- Menunkatuck Audubon Society (Tom Kelly) - Monitoring of Barn Owl nesting boxes - North Guilford owl box locations: Menunkatuck Reservoir (RT 77); Beaverhead Road; (04/01/2022 to 07/01/2022).
- 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, RWA property on Brushy Plains Road, north of Hosley Avenue and south of Lidyhites Pond, Branford (4/12/22-4/21/22).
- Quinnipiac University (Professor Scott Davies)-Study bird nest boxes and record bird nesting activity and success, band the adults and chicks, and collect tissue samples for analysis during breeding season, Lake Chamberlain Recreation Area, Sperry Rd. Farm Field, Lake Watrous, and Lake Dawson, (04/14/22 – 11/31/22)
- Hammonasset Fishing Assoc. (Mr. Vic Donahey, Manager)-road access for wildlife enhancement projects, Summerhill Road to South End of Hammonasset Fishing Assoc. Property, (4/19/22-5/31/22)
- New Haven Bird Club, (Mr. Patrick T. Leahy)-Fall bird walk to observe species that are wintering on Lakes along the West River, Lake Watrous, Lake Chamberlain (10/15/22)
- UCONN, (Dr. Chandi Witharana, Principal Investigator), drone mapping flights in support of RWA/UConn joint applied research on the use of remote sensing and drones for forest management, RWA timber harvest locations hear Haddad Rd., Seymour & Rt. 79, Madison (4/29/22-4/29/23)

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
  - Agricultural agreements – Sent email to Cave’s approving their weed control plans. Spoke to one farmer about taking over the fields at Parish Farm Rd., Branford.
  - Woodbridge/Orange (WO 14/OR 7) - Documented increased trespassing of mountain bikers at Maltby Lakes.
  - East Haven, 167 Saltonstall Parkway (Route 1) (EH 7) – Responded to complaint about the fence from Lucido. Found it in good condition. Murtha responded through his attorney. Dealt with Lucido parking vehicles in front of our property again. His attorney asked for 30-day extension to answer our complaint. We will ask court to deny the request. In court filing from Lucido, it seems he admitted to doing the damage.
  - East Haven, 27 Virginia Rd. (EH 3) – NRA and REM remarked the boundary and further documented the encroachment.
- Invasive plants – Documented and/or treated invasive populations in North Branford. Cut down a red pine tree infected with southern pine beetle at Lake Bethany for CAES staff to examine. Met with researchers from UConn to begin the LIDAR drone studies of the slash wall harvests.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	37 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	3 acres

- Deer hunt – 150 applications were received by the end of the month. The lottery will be run in May, if needed.
- Boundaries – Remarkd boundaries in Woodbridge and Bethany.
- East Haven, Beach Ave. watermain – Alerted by the town engineer that the matter was not on the town council’s meeting agenda. Sent memo to the town attorney about the purpose of

- the project. Discussed need for DEEP permit with DEEP staff. Corresponded with affected property owners and continued to collect the easement documents for their properties.
- Regional Conservation Partnership – Discussed future of the RCP with Highstead staff and Dave Sargent.
  - Branford, Parish Farm Rd. (BR 19) – Responded to rumor of a parking lot being planned for our property at this location.

There were no other land items to report.

Chair Betkoski reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

At 5:10 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Eitzer, and unanimously carried, the committee meeting adjourned.

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Peter Betkoski, Chairman