

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

Minutes of November 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, November 9, 2022, via remote access. 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: C. Havrda

Management: S. Lakshminarayanan and J. Triana

Staff: J. Slubowski

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 Ms. Young, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the minutes of its October 12, 2022 meeting.

Chair Betkoski stated the need to remove Item 3, *RWA’s Reservoir Safe Yield Model*, for reporting at a future meeting. On motion made by Ms. Young, seconded by Mr. Malloy, the committee voted to amend the agenda to remove the *RWA’s Reservoir Safe Yield Model* presentation. 8-1-0.

Update on *The Land We Need for the Water We Use Program* – Mr. Triana, the RWA’s Real Estate Manager, reported:

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average	Drought Status
October 31, 2022	73%	87%	66%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
October 2022	2.59	6.43	3.87
Fiscal YTD (6/1/22 – 10/31/22)	15.92	27.93	19.08

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

- Cheshire – Corresponded with property owner of 50+/- acres.
- Cheshire – Corresponded with property owner of 3+/- acres.
- Prospect – Corresponded with property owner of 40+/- acres.
- North Branford, Beech St. and Poms La. properties (NB 4) – Contacted Murtha about the status of the title report.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – New testing was done at the house to develop an updated estimate for demolition costs.

Forestry Update

- Killingworth - East Hammonasset Leaf Screen Thinning, (KI 4) – 30% complete.
- Hamden - Overstory removal and Tornado Salvage, (HA 36) – Not started yet. Start pushed back to fall or winter.
- Madison - Nathan’s Pond Slash Wall Harvest (MA 6) – 95% complete.
- Killingworth - N. Chestnut Hill Patch Cuts, (KI 6) – Not started yet. Winter start expected.
 - Continued working on a USFS Landscape Scale Restoration grant request, and coordinated a team of collaborators toward submitting a final grant request following a pre-requisite DEEP review.
 - Monitored the interior of the Nathan’s Pond slash wall harvest for signs of deer intrusion on multiple occasions. Communicated deer evidence to RWA’s partners, and worked toward finding a professional hunter to remove the deer found within. Performed a drone flight over the Madison slash wall to look for deer that had entered the enclosure.
 - Met with Scenic Dr., Guilford property owner about who has access over a ROW.
 - Met with owner of Extreme Landscaping at the Gaillard tree farm to select an overgrown tree for a donation to the Morris Cove Christmas display at the Pardee Seawall.
 - Worked with Operations to install a culvert at the proposed intermittent watercourse crossing for future timber sale at Menunketuc.
 - Hosted tour of Seymour slash wall for DEEP Forestry and Nature Conservancy personnel.

Recreation

- North Branford Women’s Club walk-a-thon was held with over 170 participants.
- Bird walk with New Haven Bird Club at West River lakes had 23 people.
- Boat rentals wrapped up for the year at Lake Saltonstall. Rental boats were moved to storage at Lake Gaillard and the docks were removed from the lake.
- Recreation staff attended one event with the Water Wagon. Attended meeting about Water Wagon responsibilities.
- Approximately 1300 fingerling sized walleye were stocked into Lake Saltonstall.

	October		September	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
Permit Holders	4,968	5,366	5,026	5,684

Special Activity Permits

- Save the Sound (Jon C. Vander Werff) - Culvert assessment for fish passage and flood risk-end of goal project is a culvert inventory and measurement of culverts, Bethany West River under Hoadley, Hatfield Rd., Downs Rd., Sargent River under Old Mill Rd., Sanford Brook under Rt. 42 (10/27/22 and 10/28/22).

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Agricultural agreements – Issued PO to Charter Oak to clear woody and invasive plants from Matthew St. field in Prospect.
 - Guilford, Saw Mill Hill Rd. (GU 12) – Executed renewal of license agreement with Talalas to allow chickens over the property line.
 - Trespassing – Recorded instances of trespassing including tree stands, mountain bikers, anglers, graffiti, and people parking on our property.

- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in Bethany and North Branford.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	151 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	8.24 acres

- Deer hunt – The hunt started on Oct. 28th. By the end of the month, 5 deer had been harvested – one at Prospect and four at Gaillard.
- Guilford Town Engineer – Responded to question from Guilford Town Engineer about the protection of our property as open space.
- Tennessee Gas Company – Forwarded information about TGC work along its gas line easement in Hamden, Bethany, and Woodbridge.
- West Rock Ridge access – Discussed blocking off road with local trail manager.
- Bethany, 256 Amity Rd. fire – Checked on status of ground fire behind Capasso Landscaping.
- ISMT performed a drone flight at West River WTP to document DAF project construction.
- Easements – Filed watermain easement for 687 South Main St., Cheshire.
- Bats hibernacula - Met with engineers and risk management team to discuss entering Big Gulph tunnel for a bat survey with DEEP biologist.
- Chamberlain piezometers – Coordinated moving posts for bluebird boxes to be placed next to piezometers.

Mr. Lakshminarayanan, the RWA’s Vice President of Engineering and Environmental Services, stated that management is looking for ideas for future special topics for the committee. He suggested that committee members gather ideas for recommendation at next month’s meeting.

Mr. Levine stated that he would be interested in water related educational programs for inner city children. Mr. Lakshminarayanan commented that Ms. DiFrancesco, the RWA’s Water Science Educator, should meet with the committee to provide an update on the RWA’s educational programs.

The committee reviewed its proposed 2023 calendar year meeting dates. After discussion, it was the consensus of the committee to adopt the 2023 meeting calendar.

Chair Betkoski reviewed committee member attendance at the upcoming Authority meeting on Thursday, November 17, 2022.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

At 5:57 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Levine, seconded by Mr. Eitzer, and unanimously carried, the committee meeting adjourned.

Peter Betkoski, Chairman