

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

**Minutes of September 14, 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, September 14, 2022, at Seymour Wellfield, 151 Roosevelt Drive, Seymour, Connecticut. Chair Betkoski presided.

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

**RPB:** Tom Clifford

**Authority:** K. Curseaden

**Management:** J. Hill, S. Lakshminarayanan, J. Triana, S. Vitko

**Staff:** J. Slubowski

Chair Betkoski called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Mr. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Malloy, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the minutes of its August 10, 2022 meeting, as amended.

Mr. Vitko, the RWA’s Sr. Environmental Analyst, provided a discussion on the RWA’s aquifer protection. He discussed the aquifer protection area program (APA) regulations and the roles of municipalities enrolled in the APA versus the water utilities who supply water.

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)

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>	<b>Historical Average</b>	<b>Drought Status</b>
August 31, 2022	74%	92%	74%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>	<b>Historical Average</b>
August 2022	2.13	3.15	3.95
Fiscal YTD (6/1/22 – 8/31/22)	6.31	13.51	11.38

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

- Cheshire – Corresponded with property owner of 50+/- acres.
- Cheshire, adjacent to Bis property – Continued to discuss process to perfect our claim with Murtha.
- North Branford, Beech St. and Pumps La. properties (NB 4) – Shared draft MOU with NBLCT. Answered their questions. Awaiting word to move application forward.
- Branford, Brushy Plain Rd. (BR 7) – Corresponded with Branford Land Trust staff about this property.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – The Asst. Town Attorney called and we went over the need for condemnation again in order for the project to move forward. He said he understood and would get back to me.

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.
  - One brush fire occurred on the peninsula at Lake Bethany. Covered about 1-2 acres.
  - Discussed possibility of applying for a Landscape Scale Restoration Grant.
  - Began experimenting with treating Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) to test the efficacy of an annual, single application of a basal bark drench treatment of Reliant® with a non-ionic surfactant, Pentra-Bark®. Applied mixture to beech trees in Chamberlain, Watrous, and Maltby Lakes.
  - Monitored slash wall harvests for hardwood stump sprouting and other regeneration and for encroachment by invasive plants. Pulled Ailanthus seedlings in Seymour slash wall. Evidence of deer browse was detected inside the North Madison slash wall toward the end of August.
  - Participated in a Zoom meeting with other Southern New England water companies to discuss forest stressors and data information needs surrounding climate change, invasive pests, and carbon sequestration.

Recreation

- Bat event at Lake Gaillard with Devaughn Fraser of DEEP had 16 attendees.
- Received reports of a bear at Maltby Lakes.
- Cut and removed trees along the Sanford Feeder Trail in Bethany.
- Report of horses on Lake Chamberlain dam was reported to Bethany Horsemen who addressed the issue with the riders and owner of the barn the horses came from.
- Sent letter to abutter in Guilford about accessing our property on horseback.
- Lost two staff at the end of the month. One went back to school and the other resigned. Therefore, we will not be able to rent boats on Tuesday’s the rest of the year.
- Weed-whacked a section of recreational trail at Hammonasset west of the footbridge.

	August		July	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
Permit Holders	5,102	5,926	5,218	5,873

Special Activity Permits

- Connecticut Butterfly Association (CBA) (Gina Nichol) conduct survey of nocturnal moths and other insects, Lake Saltonstall Fishing Dock Area, (8/18/22)
- CT Forest & Park Assoc. (CFPA) (Elizabeth Merow) conduct tour of property, Master Woodland Manager Program, forestry ecology, Rt. 79 Madison, (10/1/22)

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
  - Agricultural agreements – Met potential tenant for the Christmas tree plantation at North St. Sent draft agreement for them to review.
  - East Haven, 9 Pardee Place (EH 6) – Received the signed agreement from Brennan.

- West Haven/Orange/Bethany, Eversource access to ROW's – Executed the agreements for the Authority and alerted staff. Submitted to towns for filing on the land records.
- Trespassing – Numerous instances of trespassing were observed including dog walkers, mountain bikers, hikers, dirt bikes, ATV's, and anglers.
- Invasive plants – Documented and/or treated invasive populations in Seymour, Hamden, and North Branford. The water chestnut harvest for 2022 was completed at Furnace Pond. Performed post-harvest drone flight of Furnace Pond. Cleared Japanese knotweed on Davis Street. Planted a rhizomous native sunflower, *Helianthus maximilliani*, to see if it could compete with knotweed once it established.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	40.5 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	8 acres

- Deer hunt – The Ansonia-Seymour and Prospect hunting area boundaries have been re-flagged.
- Easements – Checked on the status of easements at Schoolhouse Rd., North Haven, Englewood Dr., East Haven; NW Cheshire PS, Cheshire; Sugar St., Derby; and three old easements in Branford. Filed easement for pipe in new construction off of Coleman Rd., Cheshire.
- Cell phone towers – Cell phone towers –
  - North Haven, Rabbit Rock Tank (NO 1) – Signed agreement with T-Mobile to share a generator at this site.
  - East Haven, Saltonstall Ridge (EH 2) – Still waiting to hear back from Sprint/T-Mobile, Finance Dept., and EH assessor regarding various aspects of Sprint/T-Mobile's departure from the site.
  - Orange, Ogg Meadow Rd. (OR 2) - Signed consent letters with Crown Castle for various improvements.
- Drone flights - Performed drone flight at the Derby tank site for Engineering.
- Cheshire, Ricci/Moran property easement – Replied to Eversource about plan to trim trees along the street.
- Branford, Rt 1 guide rail (BR 17) – Commented on plans of the town to install a guide rail at the property south of Rt. 1 by the outflow of Furnace Pond.
- Guilford, Great Hill Rd., Abraham Baldwin memorial – Discussed allowing a pull-off for this memorial plaque that is within the town's ROW for Great Hill Rd.

There were no other land items to report.

Committee assignments for the next quarter Authority meetings were made, as follows:

- October 27, 2022 – Mr. Levine
- November 17, 2022 – Mr. Oslander
- December 15, 2022 – Mr. Betkoski
- January 26, 2023 – Mr. Malloy

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. at Lake Saltonstall in Branford. The committee will host its annual pizza dinner. All RPB members are invited to attend.

At 5:30 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Eitzer, and unanimously carried, the committee meeting adjourned.

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Peter Betkoski, Chairman