

Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
November 13, 2024

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Land Use Committee (“Committee”) of the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”), of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District (“RWA”), took place on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut and via remote access.

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

RPB: R. Harvey and C. Havrda

Authority: M. Ricozzi

Management: S. Lakshminarayanan, V. Benni, J. Triana, and T. Barger

Chair Levine called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Mr. Malloy and seconded by Mr. Eitzer, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of its October 9, 2024 meeting, as presented.

Mr. Lakshminarayanan, the RWA’s Vice President of Engineering & Environmental Services, acknowledged Mr. Barger, the RWA’s Water Quality Manager, who provided an update on the lead service line inventory program.

He reported that the RWA has been reviewing historical records but identified gaps in the data regarding service lines, including new responsibilities extending to meters found inside homes. To address this, the RWA employed vacuum excavation for data collection for direct access to service lines. This method, which was used throughout the RWA’s 16-town district and resulted in the excavation of approximately 3,000 sites, yielding valuable information. The data was then integrated with existing historical records into a modeling software by consultant CDM, which provided insights into unknown contributions to the service lines. Following this analysis, they completed and submitted a report to the State Department of Public Health by the deadline of October 16th. The RWA has provided information to customers about their service lines through personalized letters.

He also stated that the RWA continues to compile a comprehensive inventory despite the challenges posed by changing field conditions. Staff members are being utilized to gather essential service line information. Communication remains a priority; engagement with municipal leaders, health departments, and other stakeholders ensures that all parties are informed of project developments. A multimedia campaign, including emails, print materials, calls, meetings, and webinars, is being employed to maintain awareness and address inquiries. Additionally, the RWA is actively pursuing funding opportunities through the State Department of Public Health's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to support both immediate needs and future replacement efforts. Continued outreach will involve neighborhood canvassing and dialogue with diverse community groups to ensure that information is collected appropriately, and all requirements are met.

Committee members discussed challenges, expectations, and federal regulation changes.

Chair Levine stated that the Authority voted to recommend an application to the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) for the disposition of 56 Squantuck Road in Seymour, Connecticut. The RPB Chair referred the application to the Committee to review for completeness, mode, and date of public hearing. After discussion, the Committee found the application to be complete and on motion made by Ms. Young and seconded by Mr. Horbal, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend the Application to the RPB to schedule a public hearing,

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

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

| | Current Year | Previous Year | Historical Average | Drought Status |
|------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|
| October 31 | 73% | 87% | 66% | None |

Rainfall (inches)

| | Current Year | Previous Year | Historical Average |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|
| October 2024 | 0.79 | 4.01 | 3.84 |
| Fiscal YTD (6/1/24 – | 17.58 | 24.86 | 19.11 |

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

- Madison – Corresponded with property owner of 24+/- acres.
- Cheshire, Bis/Bowman property – Spoke to some abutters about marking boundaries. 490 Forestland certification was approved. Corresponded with DEEP staff about the OSWLA grant.
- Branford, Cherry Hill Rd. ext (BR 10A) – Received the updated deeds and filed in the vault.
- North Branford, Beech St., and Poms La. properties – Executed the deeds and held closing transferring the properties to the North Branford Land Conservation Trust.
- Seymour, 56 Squantuck Rd. (SE 5) – Attended FMA meeting about the application. FMA approved and it was forwarded onto the RPB.
- Madison and Guilford (MA 2A and GU 21) – Spoke to representative from Guilford Sportsmen Association about their interest in the class III acres.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Consultant submitted the resubdivision application to P&Z. Public hearing is scheduled for November 12. Installed sign on the front lawn.

Forestry Update

- Killingworth - East Hammonasset Leaf Screen Thinning, (KI 4) – 75% complete.
- Hamden - Overstory removal and Tornado Salvage, (HA 36) – The harvest was halted in early June, and the logger pulled his equipment off the property on June 13th. It is uncertain at this point whether the buyer will continue with the salvage operation even if a market is found - 15% complete.
- Guilford - Menunketuc High-Grade Rehabilitation Cut and Conifer Release (GU 12/12A) – **45% complete.**
 - Inventoried ~300 acres of property in Prospect and Branford for future timber sales.
 - Gave tour of Nathan’s Pond slash for staff and volunteers of The American Chestnut Foundation.

- Led a site walk of Nathan’s Pond slash wall and nearby research plots for scouts as part of their environmental education program and a nest-box construction grant.
- Inspected GU 12/12A timber sale on a weekly basis. Also checked the new culvert crossing and sediment basin along the main access road through the Menunketuc property.

Recreation

- Oak identification walk was attended by 21 people.
- Cleared trails at Maltby Lakes and Lake Saltonstall.
- Boats and docks removed from Lake Saltonstall.
- Weeds and brush were removed from the dock area.
- About 1800 walleye fingerling (6-8”) were stocked in Lake Saltonstall.
- Locks were replaced at Lake Chamberlain and the Maltby Lakes after customer complaints.
- Tours of our recreation areas for two new customer service staff were held.
- Updated recreation pamphlet.
- The Water Wagon attended four events in October.

| | October | | September | |
|----------------|---------|-------|-----------|-------|
| | 2024 | 2023 | 2024 | 2023 |
| Permit Holders | 4,889 | 4,823 | 4,846 | 4,827 |

Special Activity Permits

- CT DEEP (Christopher McDowell, Fisheries Biologist)-To sample reservoir fish community via night boat electrofishing at Peat Swamp Reservoir and Lake Hammonasset to assess ecological health of fish population and perform waterbody wide inspection for invasive mosquito fish (10/8/24 – 11/15/24)
- New Haven Bird Club (Glen Cummings, Gilles Carter)-to maintain and monitor bluebird nesting boxes, Christmas Tree Fields (North Street and Great Hill Road) North Branford, (3/21/25-8/31/25).

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Hamden, Hamden Hall athletic fields (HA 9A) – Corresponded with Murtha about amending the lease to reflect the new amount.
 - West Haven, Shingle Hill Tanks (WH 7) – Received COI from Yale’s contractor. Attended Teams meeting with parties involved to discuss conduit route.
 - West Haven, Allings Crossing Rd. (WH 6) – Received payment from UI.
 - Prospect, Roaring Brook Rd. (PR 7) – Checked area by Crandall’s house. Old hose was broken. Noticed dam within the stream (with logs) and an owl/wood duck box.
 - North Branford, 269 Forest Rd. (NB 17) – Saw letter from town staff to the owners of the property which included a comment about an encroachment. Property owner has a license agreement with us from when we acquired the property and has been in compliance.
- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in North Branford. Finished treating stilt grass, mugwort and swallow-wort using steam at Lake Gaillard, totaling approximately 1.37 acres. Prepared for stilt grass study involving the steaming of seed heads to see if steam will kill the seed.

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac) | 0.9 acres |
| Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH) | 0.9 acres |

- Deer hunt – Scouting period was completed. The hunt opened on October 28. Five deer have been harvested by the end of the month.
- Regional Conservation Partnership – Hosted part of field trip for 15 attendees talking about our land conservation efforts and timber sales.
- New Haven, Yale Golf Course drainage – Received signed MOU and filed in the vault.
- East Haven, Hellstrom Rd. – Checked slope behind houses for any movement of rocks but did not find anything.
- Madison, Durham Rd. cell phone tower (MA 2D) – Forwarded plans from AT&T for installing a new diesel generator at the site to Environmental Planning.
- Bethany, Downs Rd. Cole easement – Spoke with potential buyer of the Cole property about the easement we hold on it.
- Branford, Hosley Ave. – Staff participated in clean up along the road.
- Boundaries – Checked and remarked boundaries in Orange.
- Land Use Plan – Continued work on maps for next LUP update.
- North Branford, UI watermain easement – Authorized Juliano to create survey for the easement. Contacted North Branford town staff about an easement over their property.
- Drone flights – Flew drone missions in Prospect documenting construction at the Prospect Reservoir. Flew drone missions in Ansonia and East Haven documenting the state of the hatches going into tanks.
- Watermain easement encroachments – Discussed the creation of a spreadsheet to track encroachments found through GIS.

The committee reviewed and adopted the proposed 2025 calendar year meeting dates.

The committee reviewed volunteer assignments for upcoming Regional Water Authority meetings on:

- November 21, 2024 - J. Oslander
- December 19, 2024 – G. Malloy
- January 23, 2025 – P. Betkoski

The next regular meeting is on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:20 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy and seconded by Mr. Eitzer, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

Mark Levine, Chair

(R) = Attended remotely.