

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

Minutes of April 19, 2023 Meeting

The regular meeting of the Land Use Committee of the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”) of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District (“RWA”) took place on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut.

Committee Members Present: P. Betkoski, P. DeSantis, R. Harvey, M. Horbal, M. Levine, G. Malloy, and J. Mowat Young

Committee Members Absent: B. Eitzer and J. Oslander

RPB: M. Ricoszi and N. Campbell

Authority: K. Curseaden

Management: L. Bingaman, R. Kowalski, E. Calo, J. Hill, S. Lakshminarayanan, P. Singh, and J. Triana

Office of Consumer Affairs: Atty. Donofrio

Staff: J. Slubowski

Ms. Young called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. She reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

Ms. Young stated that it would be appropriate to move into executive session to review the FY 2024 proposed budget with management. At 5:33 p.m., Messrs. Betkoski and Levine entered the meeting and by unanimous consent, the committee voted to convene in executive session pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1- 200(6)(E) to discuss matters covered by Section 1-210 subsection b #'s 5 B, pertaining to commercial and financial information. Present in executive session were Committee members, Messrs. Ricoszi, Curseaden, Bingaman, Hill, Lakshminarayanan, Singh, Triana, and Atty. Donofrio, and Mss. Kowalski, Calo, Campbell, and Slubowski.

At 7:08 p.m., the Committee came out of executive session. No votes were taken in, or as a result of, executive session.

On motion made by Mr. Malloy, and seconded by Mr. Harvey, the Committee approved the minutes of its March 8, 2023 meeting.

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
March 31, 2023	98%	97%	91%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
March 2023	3.83	2.49	4.30
Fiscal YTD (6/1/22 –	33.46	40.70	38.31

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

- Prospect, 200 Saddle Ct. – The Watershed Fund approved our grant application. Exchanged emails and reviewed closing documents including draft deed. Scheduled closing for April 4th.
- Madison – Corresponded with property owner of 7+/- acres.
- North Haven – Corresponded with property owner of 14+/- acres.
- North Branford – Corresponded with property owner of 75+/- acres.
- Cheshire – Corresponded with property owner of 56+/- acres.
- North Branford, Beech St. and Poms La. properties (NB 4) – Murtha shared some of the work the title searcher completed. Town Planner signed off on the surveys to subdivide the parcels and they were filed on the land records. Murtha will follow-up with the Assessor about subdividing the “island” parcel. Submitted draft disposition application to Sunny.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – P&Z Commission reviewed the matter and sent to Town Council. Town Council needs to sign off and authorize funds.
- Seymour, 189 Maple St. – Spoke with owner and sent him copies of the deeds since he asked about the insurance requirement.

Forestry Update

- Killingworth - East Hammonasset Leaf Screen Thinning, (KI 4) – **80% complete.**
- Hamden - Overstory removal and Tornado Salvage, (HA 36) – Not started yet. May be pushed to summer due to ground conditions.
- Killingworth - N. Chestnut Hill Patch Cuts, (KI 6) – **70% complete.**
 - Participated in project work and field planning meeting for upcoming bat research around Lake Gaillard.
 - Organized meeting with US Forest Service grant administrator regarding LSR grant.
 - Investigated and responded to timber sale trespassing issues at the KI 6 timber harvest.
 - Participated in a US Forest Service presentation on Urban and Community Forestry grant opportunities through the Inflation Reduction Act programs.
 - Conducted a walk-through with the logger for the Crosby salvage operation. Distributed letters and hung signs at entrance to landing.

Recreation

- Walk with Forester at Genesee had 7 participants.
- In addition to the physical newsletter, O&C sent it out via email to the permittees that we have email addresses for.
- Received recreation activity permit from DPH for relocation of part of the New England Trail in Guilford. Submitted LUP amendment to Sunny.
- CFPD asked to relocate another part of the New England Trail away from Hart Rd. in Guilford.
- A permit holder reported a new eagle nest at Lake Saltonstall. Reported the discovery to DEEP.
- Cleared trails at Lake Saltonstall and Big Gulph.
- Two new recreation staff members were on-boarded.
- Installed the docks for the upcoming fishing season.
- Repaired picnic table at the Maltby Lakes.
- Soft plastic bait recycling containers were put up at Saltonstall, Chamberlain and Maltby Lakes.

- The fish liberation permit was submitted to DEEP for the stocking of trout at the Maltby Lakes and arrangements made for their delivery.

	March		February	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Permit Holders	4,954	5,712	4,822	5,601

Special Activity Permits

- Resources in Search and Rescue, Inc.-(Ms. Celeste Robitaille and designees)- Training of Search and Rescue K9 teams to locate lost or missing individuals, Two Cornwall Avenue, Prospect, (03/22/2023-3/22/2024)
- Resources in Search and Rescue, Inc.-(Ms. Celeste Robitaille and designees)- Training of Search and Rescue K9 teams to locate lost or missing individuals, 20 Rimmon Road, Seymour
- (03/22/2023 – 3/22/2024)
- UConn, Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (Professor Eric Schultz) – Research on alewives (fishes) for genetic study, Lake Saltonstall, (8/1/2023-9/30/2023)
- Northeast Work & Safety Boats, LLC (Jack Casey) – inspection of bridge 00186 Lake Saltonstall (4/3/23-4/4/23)

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - North Branford, 215 Forest Rd. (NB 17) – Executed license agreement for lawn and bench.
 - Guilford, Great Hill Rd and Cooks La. (GU 9) – Executed license agreement for a shed partially over the line as well as parking a vehicle over the line.
 - Killingworth, Bunker Hill Rd. (KI 9A) – Found deer stand on the line and sent letter to abutter.
 - Orange, 869 Dogburn Rd. (OR 7) – Observed abutter using our property to access the rear of their lot. Sent letter to cease and repair damage.
 - Orange, 43 Pine Crest Dr. (OR 3) – Sent letter and spoke to abutter about lawn and other encroachments. Sent them a draft license agreement to review.
 - Orange, 820 Ogg Meadow Rd. (OR 2) – Sent letter and met with abutters about firewood stored over the property line. Abutter said they would move the stacks.
 - West Haven, Shingle Hill tanks (WH 7) – Continued to correspond with consultant for Yale to place radio repeater at the tanks.
 - Cell phone towers – Corresponded with TMobile staff about new generator at the Rabbit Rock Tank (NO 1).
 - Hamden, New Haven Country Club (HA 5) – Reviewed the red-lined agreement from the NHCC staff.
 - Trespassing – Recorded instances of trespassing including ATV's, dirt bikes, hikers without permits, illegal fishing, mountain bikers in unapproved locations, and hikers with dogs.
- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in North Branford, East Haven, Madison, and Branford. Issued PO to clear field of invasives in Guilford. Corresponded with Madison resident about plans for invasive management at Coan Pond.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	302.4 acres
--	-------------

Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	0.8 acres

- East Haven, Beach Ave. watermain – Met Tighe and Bond staff at the site to work on the DEEP permit application. Told Murtha staff to go ahead with the title policy.
- Deer hunt - The lottery applications for the 2023 deer hunt went out March 6. The applications are due May 2.
- Hamden, tire dumping – Met with North Lake Condo’s staff to look at tires dumped on the Atria Larson property. Talked to consultant hired by town about what we have observed.
- Boundaries – Completed remarking of boundaries in Durham, Madison, Orange, Killingworth, and Woodbridge.
- The Watershed Fund – A special permittee gave us a check for \$250 to go to a charity. Forwarded to The Watershed Fund.
- Yale Golf Course remodeling – Spoke with various local residents about Yale’s plans to restore some of the gold course.
- Prospect Reservoir – Reviewed plan for dredged materials from the reservoir and sent comments to Engineering.
- Drone flights - Performed one drone flight at West River to document the DAF project. Performed a drone flight to document manure issue in Bethany.

There were no other land items to report.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

At 7:24 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Harvey, and unanimously carried, the committee meeting adjourned.

Peter Betkoski, Chairman