

Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
October 9, 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, October 9, 2024, at the Lake Saltonstall, 100 Hosley Avenue, Branford, Connecticut.

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

RPB: R. Harvey and C. Havrda

Authority: C. LaMarr

Management: S. Lakshminarayanan, J. Triana, J. Hill, Capt. Ruggiero, Sgt. J. Alexopoulos, Sgt. K. Hall, and Sgt. D. Putnam,

Chair Levine called the meeting to order at 4:46 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 September 11, 2024 meeting, with Mr. Horbal abstaining.

Captain Ruggiero introduced three new RWA Police Officers: Sgts. Alexopoulos, Hall and Putnam and provided background information for each.

He reported on updates related to RWA owned property violations in June, July, and August, which included:

- June – 54 tickets issued for trespassing, swimming, illegal ATV use, and other violations;
- July – 20 tickets issued, and 15 verbal warnings given for other RWA violations; and
- August – 28 tickets issued, and 61 verbal warnings given for other RWA violations. Also, on August 18th the RWA police assisted the Madison Police Department regarding a missing persons case, who was found using a canine GPS. The owner, and dog, were found unharmed.

Committee members discussed ATV use during colder months, monitoring and cameras, ticketing process, police shifts, and permitting.

After discussion, Committee members thanked the RWA Police for the introductions and the updates provided.

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
September 30	80%	89%	68%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
September 2024	1.30	6.39	3.83
Fiscal YTD (6/1/24 – 9/30/24)	16.79	20.85	15.28

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

- Cheshire – Corresponded with property owner of 20+/- acres.
- North Branford – Corresponded with property owner of 13+/- acres.
- Cheshire, Bis/Bowman property – Submitted draft survey to DEEP for the OSWLA grant. Sent letters to abutters about the acquisition. Received deeds back from the towns.
- North Branford, Beech St., and Poms La. properties (NB 4) – Signed the P&SA with the NBLCT.
- Seymour, 56 Squantuck Rd. (SE 5) – Submitted disposition application to FMA. They had questions so the application will go back to them in October. Corresponded with town staff about the disposition process.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Discussed the resubdivision for the lot to go with the house with the surveyor.

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 (GU12/12A) – **40% complete.**
 - Completed QFR’s for the Preisner and Bis properties. Submitted 490 applications to assessors’ offices.
 - Trained Natural Resource Specialists in forestry inventory techniques related to PA490 applications, including the proper use of a 10-factor prism, dbh tape, and Biltmore stick.
 - Participated in two site walks for CFPA’s Master Woodlands Manager program and co- led a forest ecology field day at Nathan’s Pond slash for twenty-five participants on the morning of September 21st.
 - Supervised and managed Natural Resource Specialists in overseeding and mulching treated roadside areas and ditches following steamweeder treatments.
 - Worked with CAES to ground-truth a remote sensing alert from the US Forest Service regarding a decrease in leaf density on a portion of the Totoket Ridge.

Recreation

- Kids archery event was attended by 20 children.
- Plant walk at LWWTP was attended by 15 people.
- North Branford Women’s Walk was attended by about 160 people.
- Cleared trails of fallen trees at Lake Chamberlain and Lake Bethany.
- New sign and bait recycling collection bin were installed at Lake Chamberlain.

- DEEP Stocking and Liberation permits were filled out for the walleye coming in October to Lake Saltonstall.
- Informed Bethany Horsemen and recreation permit holders (through FB) that the causeway at the head of Chamberlain will be closed soon while Engineering does repairs.
- Contractor opened up 2 miles of trails at Genesee.
- The Water Wagon attended three events in September.

	September		August	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
Permit Holders	4,846	4,827	4,880	4,883

Special Activity Permits

- Connecticut Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation-(Mr. Jack Swatt) flowering chestnut trees on RWA property to harvest nuts to plant in their Germplasm Conservation Orchards to preserve genetic diversity of the species (9/1/23-9/30/23) – Revised date until 10/31/24.
- Connecticut State Police K9 Unit (Mr. Ryan Cloukey and designees)-training K9 teams in the discipline of tracking, Lake Gaillard, (9/5/24-9/5/25)
- Univ.of New Haven Army ROTC Program Coordinator (Robert Clark) - Squad Tactical and Platoon Tactical Training - 1955 Litchfield Turnpike/West River Training Area, Woodbridge (9/12/2024-9/12/2025).
- CTDEEP (Brooks Pitman) – to address the decline of the fisher population in CT, Lake Gaillard area and properties east of the property, (9/16/24 – 9/16/25).
- Boys Scouts of America Troop 610 (Michael Collins) – hiking trip to Woods Road that runs behind the filter plant located outside of fence line that encompasses West River Water Treatment Plant, (10/5/24).

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Hamden, Hamden Hall athletic fields (HA 9A) – Working on an amendment to the lease that would set the annual fee for the remainder of the term.
 - Hamden, 0 Easterly Dr (HA 39) – Found and removed tree stand.
 - Cheshire, South Main St. (CH 4) – Corresponded with Southwick Condos staff about the history of the license agreement including the fee.
 - Agricultural agreements – Contacted Tanev about mowing the fields he is responsible for.
 - West Haven, Shingle Hill Tanks (WH 7) – Spoke to Yale representative about getting the payment and COI before they start installing the antennas.
 - Prospect, Roaring Brook Rd. (PR 7) – EP staff found hoses on our property coming from the Crandall property. Sent registered letter telling them to cease. Area will be checked in October for compliance.
- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in Madison, Seymour, and North Branford. Treated stilt grass, mugwort and swallow-wort using steam at Lake Gaillard, approximately 0.6 acres (2000+ feet of road).

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	6 acres
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Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	0.6 acres
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- Deer hunt – The three pre-hunt safety meetings were completed. The final count of hunters is 134 at North Branford, 25 at Bethany, 20 at Prospect, and 8 at Seymour.
- Madison, North Madison Congregational Church land – Answered inquiry from member of the public about land sold to the church in 1998.
- Land Use Plan – Continued work on maps for next LUP update.
- North Branford, UI watermain easement – Murtha reviewed title report for UI property we wish to install a water main through.
- Drone flights - Flew drone in Prospect documenting construction at the Prospect Reservoir.

Committee members discussed a site visit related to an upcoming application for the disposition of an RWA owned property in Seymour.

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

- October 24, 2024 – J. Mowat Young
- November 21, 2024 - J. Oslander
- December 19, 2024 – G. Malloy
- January 23, 2025 – P. Betkoski

The next regular meeting is on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. and will be held at 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven.

At 5:20 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy and seconded by Mr. Eitzer, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

Mark Levine, Chair