

Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
 South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
 March 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, March 13, 2024 at the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut and via remote access. Chair Betkoski presided.

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

Representative Policy Board: R. Harvey and N. Campbell (R)

RWA: K. Curseaden (R)

Management: S. Lakshminarayanan (R), N. Smith, 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, and seconded by Mr. Oslander, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of its February 14, 2024 regular meeting and its February 28, 2024 special meeting, with Mr. Eitzer abstaining for February 14, 2024.

Ms. Smith, the RWA’s Natural Resources Analyst, provide an update of the 2023 Deer Hunt, which included:

- Historical property and harvesting information since 2009
- Reasons for reducing deer density
- Season overview and survey information
- Permits and harvesting amounts
- Impacts, data, and DPH reporting requirements

Committee members discussed hunting methods on RWA properties, doe incentives, deer attractants, hunter requirements, and methods of removal.

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
February 29	95%	92%	82%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
February 2024	1.60	0.88	3.31
Fiscal YTD (6/1/23 – 2/29/24)	45.42	29.63	34.11

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

- Cheshire, Bis/Bowman property – Signed P&SA for 78+/- acres.
- Cheshire – Corresponded with property owner of 20+/- acres.
- Cheshire – Corresponded with property owner of 16+/- acres.
- Bethany – Corresponded with property owner of 60+/- acres.
- Bethany – Corresponded with property owner of 35+/- acres.
- Hamden – Corresponded with property owner of 10+/- acres.
- North Branford, Beech St. and Poms La. properties (NB 4) – Corresponded with land trust staff about the purchase.
- Seymour, Squantuck Rd. (SE 5) – Continued the attempts to get town’s plans for the property in order to prepare the disposition application.

Rental houses:

- Nothing to report.

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.
- Killingworth - N. Chestnut Hill Patch Cuts, (KI 6) – 100% complete. Equipment removed, but some firewood logs still at the landing.
- Guilford - Menunketuc High-Grade Rehabilitation Cut and Conifer Release (GU12/12A) – **20% complete.**
 - Conducted LSR grant planning and administrative duties related to revised budget for steam weeder, capital spending procedures, and award letter amendments.
 - Compiled and submitted US Department of Agriculture Land Value Survey report.
 - Sent out permit renewal packets for woodcutters and maple tappers.
 - Arranged delivery of partial resistant chestnuts from The American Chestnut Foundation.

Recreation

- Invasive plants walk at Saltonstall had 12 people.
- Owl walk at Chamberlain had over 50 people.
- Maple sugaring tour had 34 people.
- Recruited new staff for 2024 fishing season.
- Pine Hill permit was renewed by DPH.
- Permit renewals were submitted to DPH for activities at Lake Saltonstall, Big Gulph, Hammonasset, Sugarloaf and Genesee.
- Customer Service Rep. attended meeting where pin pad usage for payment was discussed.

	February		January	
	2024	2023	2023	2022
Permit Holders	4,771	4,822	4,743	4,847

Special Activity Permits

- Yale University, School of the Environment (Mark S. Ashton) - Education/field trips for grad students, North end of Lake Gaillard – site classification and stand assessment exercise; North Madison off Rt. 79N Silvicultural systems demonstration area (2/9/2024 field trip to Lake Gaillard coordinates -41.377670, -72.758137; 3/1/2024 field trip to North Madison – silvicultural systems demonstration area coordinates latitude and longitude are 41.393639; -72.650112.)
- Prospect Volunteer Fire Department, (Mr. Ryan Angelicola) – teach the members of the Fire Department how to correctly treat felling trees and working with chainsaw on log cutting, Tress Road Entrance, 14 Chatfield Drive, Prospect, (4/1/24 – 7/1/24)
- UConn, Dept of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (Dr. Mark Urban) – Research on pond amphibians - Totoket mountain in Northford; ridge north of Lake Gaillard; 60 ponds distributed to the west and east of Big Gulph Brook (3/1/2024- 3/1/2025)
- CTDEEP (Ansel Aarrestad, Environmental Analyst II) - To monitor and assess the surface waters across CT as part of a probabilistic study. Install temperature logger, diatom community survey, fish community survey, macroinvertebrate community survey, swap temperature logger, remove temperature logger. Mill River (41.394847-72.892324) off of Riverside Drive, Hamden (3/20/2023-3/20/2024) Extension until November 30, 2024.

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - West Haven, Shingle Hill tanks (WH 7) – Answered questions from Yale about the draft agreement.
 - North Branford, 67 Woods Hill Rd. (NB 7) – Discovered tree house over the property line. Sent letter to abutters.
 - Orange, 821 Alling Rd. (OR 6) – Discovered items stored over the property line. Sent letter to abutters to remove materials.
 - Orange 835 Alling Rd. (OR 6) - Discovered items stored over the property line. Sent letter to abutters to remove materials.
 - Orange, 845 Alling Rd. (OR 6) – Discovered a lawn extended over the property line. Sent letter to abutters to stop mowing or enter into a license agreement. Abutters called and said they would enter a license agreement. Draft agreement mailed.
 - Orange, 849 Alling Rd. (OR 6) - Discovered items stored over the property line. Sent letter to abutters to remove materials.
 - Orange, 158 Ohman Rd. (OR 6) - Discovered items stored over the property line. Sent letter to abutters to remove materials.
 - Hamden, Lake Whitney access (HA 4) – Received updated draft agreement from UI to review.
- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in Branford, East Haven, and North Branford. Issued PO for steam weeder as part of the LSR grant. Assisted Engineering with planning for vegetation removal over water mains at West River.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	39 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	5.4 acres

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- Hamden, Hamden Hall scoreboard – Notified by Environmental Planning staff that the school submitted a P&Z application for a new scoreboard.
- Hamden, Tennessee Gas Pipeline work – Forwarded notice from gas company about their planned work in the ROW east of Downs Rd. in Hamden.
- Boundaries – Checked and remarked boundaries in Madison, East Haven, North Branford, Branford, Hamden, West Haven, Orange and Woodbridge.
- Lake Whitney dam project – Replied to Engineering about access question off of Whitney Ave.
- Woodbridge, 1955 Litchfield Tpk. – Exchanged emails with others about the fate of the house, barn, and other buildings at this address.
- Genesee tunnel inspection – Corresponded with Engineering staff about their plans to inspect the tunnel east of Lake Menunketuc.
- New Haven, Greenwich Ave. easement – Assisted Operations staff with contacting UI about getting access to a property they own and we have an easement over.
- Woodbridge, DOT sediment basin property – Looked up information for Engineering about a property we conveyed to the state for a sediment basin in the 1970's.

Committee members discussed the status of the RWA police and future topics of interest.

Chair Betkoski reported on upcoming meetings in April:

- Finance Committee regular meeting – Monday, April 8, 2024 (FY 2025 Budget Review – *All RPB members are invited to attend*)
- Next regular meeting - Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
- Joint meeting of Consumer Affairs and Land Use – Monday, April 15, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. (FY 2025 Budget Review – *All RPB members are invited to attend*)

At 6:28 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy, and seconded by Mr. Oslander, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

Peter Betkoski, Chairman