

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

Minutes of October 11, 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, October 11, 2023 at Lake Saltonstall, 100 Hosley Avenue, Branford, Connecticut. Chair Betkoski presided.

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

Committee Members Absent: Peter DeSantis

RPB: R. Harvey, C. Havrda

RWA: M. Ricozzi

Management: S. Lakshminarayanan, J. Hill, J. Tracy, J. Triana, Capt. Ruggiero and Sgt. Putnam

Chair Betkoski called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Mr. Malloy, and seconded by Mr. Horbal, the Committee approved the minutes of its September 13, 2023 regular meeting.

Mr. Tracy, the RWA’s Invasive Species Management Technician, provided a drone demonstration, which is used for the control of invasive species on RWA owned properties. The demonstration included a discussion of:

- Drone components and sensors
- Requirements and certification
- Communication protocols
- Data collection and surveillance
- Areas of concern

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
September 30	89%	72%	68%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
September 2023	6.39	7.02	3.86
Fiscal YTD (6/1/23 – 9/30/23)	20.85	13.33	15.26

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

- Cheshire – Corresponded with property owner of 50+/- acres.
- Bethany – Corresponded with property owner of 30+/- acres.
- North Branford, Beech St. and Poms La. properties (NB 4) – Public hearings for both properties were held by the RPB.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Asst. Town Attorney did not reply to email asking for a status update of the condemnation.

Forestry Update

- Killingworth - East Hammonasset Leaf Screen Thinning, (KI 4) – 95% 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) - Timber marking and tally have been completed. A request for quote (RFQ) was distributed to potential buyers.**
 - Overseeded landings and skid trails in Killingworth, Madison and Seymour
 - Marked and tallied timber at planned Guilford timber harvest.
 - Supervised outside contractor for the removal of overgrown Christmas trees from Gaillard evergreen plantation.
 - Participated in a weekend program at North Madison slash wall for CFPA's Master Woodlands Manager training.

Recreation

- Held walk at Lake Saltonstall about local oak species with 20 people.
- Held butterfly walk at Chamberlain with 18 people.
- Kids archery event was cancelled due to inclement weather.
- Met with Vermont Systems to talk about the website and including the current newsletter and updated events on the calendar.
- Cleared more trails at Chamberlain.
- Broken locks were replaced at the Maltby Lakes and Lake Chamberlain.
- Poor weather prevented boat rentals at Lake Saltonstall on three days.
- The Water Wagon attended three events in September.

	September		August	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Permit Holders	4,827	5,026	4,883	5,102

Special Activity Permits

- Connecticut State Police K9 Unit (Mr. Ryan Cloukey and designees)-training K9 teams in the discipline of tracking, Lake Gaillard, (9/18/23-9/18/24)
- Univ.of New Haven Army ROTC Program Coordinator (Robert Clark) - Squad Tactical and Platoon Tactical Training - 1955 Litchfield Turnpike/West River Training Area, Woodbridge (9/18/23 – 9/18/24).
- Earth Tones, LLC, Adjunct Professor Naugatuck Valley Community College (Kyle Turoczi) – bring students to our properties for field work only. No collection of seed or plants, Morris Road, Bethany Rt. 69 and walk along the powerlines, (9/28/23 – 12/31/23).

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - West Haven, Shingle Hill tanks (WH 7) – Waiting for Yale to waive a conflict with Murtha before proceeding.
 - Hamden, Downs Rd. field (HA 36) – Agreed to meet with our licensee and NRCS staff to talk about the field.
 - Agricultural fields – Corresponded with licensee about mowing the fields on the west side and the Branford fields off of Parish Farm Rd.
 - Trespassing – Recorded instances of trespassing including hikers without permits, dumping, and vandalism on a gate.
- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in Madison and North Branford. Attended two day invasive species expo in Saratoga Springs, NY.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	110 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	6 acres

- Hamden, water main easement at Hamden Plaza – Met with owner of Wood-n-Tap restaurant to discuss patio constructed over the water main. Said we would be in touch about what to do next. There was no immediate threat to the water main.
- Milford, 589 Bridgeport Ave. watermain easement – Met with Contracts staff and Murtha staff to go over amending the easement for the watermain in the former K-Mart plaza.
- Prospect Reservoir – Forwarded information to DEEP on behalf of Engineering about property ownership adjacent to the Prospect relating to their plans to dredge part of the reservoir.
- East Haven, Beach Ave. watermain – Corresponded with Tighe and Bond staff regarding the DEEP permit application. Met with him and made comments on the map he drafted.
- Branford, Blackstone Ave. watermain – The title report was received by Murtha staff. They are reviewing the report.
- Durham, Higganum Rd. beavers (DU 6) – Alerted that the beavers are active again plugging the culvert. Forwarded email to others who have talked to town staff before about this matter.
- Killingworth, Smith property easement (KI 16) – Contacted by realtor working for the Smith's who intend to sell their property with our conservation easement. Answered questions she had about the rules of the easement.

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- Deer hunt – Three pre-hunt meetings were held. The final count of hunters participating in the 2023 archery hunt is 164. By site: North Branford – 114; Bethany – 23; Prospect-19 and Ansonia/Seymour – 8. Parking signs have been put out.

There were no other land items to report.

Chair Betkoski reviewed committee member attendance at the upcoming Authority meeting on Thursday, October 26, 2023.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:00 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy, and seconded by Mr. Eitzer, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Peter Betkoski, Chairman