

Representative Policy Board  
**Land Use Committee**  
 South Central Connecticut Regional Water District  
 January 10, 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, January 10 2024, at 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut, and via remote access. Chair Betkoski presided.

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

**Committee Members Absent:**

**Representative Policy Board:**

**RWA:** S. Sack

**Management:** S. Lakshminarayanan, J. Hill, and J. Triana

Chair Betkoski called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Mr. Malloy, and seconded by Mr. Havrda, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of its December 13, 2023 regular meeting, with Mr. Eitzer abstaining.

The Committee viewed a video, “*Protecting the Water Supply, (1951) 24:32*,” hosted by General Electric (<https://www.c-span.org/video/?527411-1/protecting-water-supply>). “*Made in cooperation with the U.S. Public Health Service, this 1951 General Electric film showed how water is used in everyday life, the impact of pollution, and how citizens can protect America’s water supply.*”

Committee members discussed the evolution of water service and delivery, bottled water lenient regulations, and the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions.

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
December 31	94%	80%	72%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
December 2023	9.49*	4.55	4.14
Fiscal YTD (6/1/23 – 12/31/23)	37.87	23.86	27.20

\* - December 2023 was the wettest December in our 112-year history at Lake Whitney. The previous wettest December was in 1973 (8.82”).

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

- Cheshire – Corresponded with property owner of 50+/- acres.

Representative Policy Board  
 Land Use Committee  
 January 10, 2024

- Cheshire – Corresponded with property owner of 20+/- acres.
- Branford – Corresponded with property owner of 3+/- acres.
- Bethany – Corresponded with property owner of 60+/- acres.
- Bethany – Corresponded with property owner of 30+/- acres.
- Hamden – Corresponded with property owner of 10+/- acres.
- North Branford, Beech St. and Poms La. properties (NB 4) – Shared our title work with the NBLCT.
- Seymour, Squantuck Rd. (SE 5) – Received letter from town expressing interest in the parcel. Looking for new environmental consultant for dispositions.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Received condemnation papers from state marshal.
- Hamden, 95 Ives St. – Responded to call from property owner about connecting the house to the water main.

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) – Sales agreement signed with vendor. Harvest is expected to start in January 2024.
  - Continued discussions with Bromage and Juniver on future use of sugar bushes at the Saltonstall and Gaillard properties.
  - Scheduled kick-off safety meeting for Timber Sale #2023-01 awardee and RWA Safety Team.
  - Conducted a pre-harvest, walk-through for adjoining landowners in Guilford.
  - Prepped for upcoming LSR grant kick-off meeting and led a field day with USFS grant liaison.
  - Met with a procurement forester conducting a timber-harvesting operation on abutting property in Killingworth.
  - Worked with CAES researcher at the Nathan’s Pond slash wall to collect stump sprouting/deer browse data.

Recreation

- Held tree identification walk at LWWTP with 30 attendees.
- Cleared more trails at Genesee and Maltby Lakes.
- Took delivery of four new dock sections at Lake Saltonstall.
- Spoke to others about impending minimum wage increase at the beginning of January.

	December		November	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Permit Holders	4,742	4,851	4,780	4,913

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, RT 42 Swamp southeast of RT 42 Bethany; (11/27/23-11/27/24)
- Resources in Search and Rescue, Inc.-(Ms. Celeste Robitaille and designees)-Training of Search and Rescue K9 teams to locate lost or missing individuals, Lake Watrous and Lake Dawson, (11/27/23-11/27/24).
- New Haven Bird Club (Chris Loscalzo) - Annual Christmas Bird Count survey - Saltonstall, Whitney, Wepawaug, Maltby, Dawson, Glen, Chamberlain, Watrous – (12/16/2023).
- Dr. Chris Loscalzo (at request of CTDEEP) - Annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey - Lakes Saltonstall and Gaillard – (1/13/2024).

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
  - West Haven, Shingle Hill tanks (WH 7) – Received revised draft agreement and made comments.
  - Hamden, New Haven Country Club parking lot (HA 5) – Indicated they would not be paving the parking lot within the licensed area.
  - North Branford, Great Hill Rd. field (NB 4) – Received signed agreement from the Page’s.
  - North Branford, 215 Forest Rd. (NB 17) – Current owner indicated she was selling her property. Sent draft license agreement to use with new owners.
  - Woodbridge, Woodbridge tank radio (WO 16) – Received letter from town to extend the agreement for another 5 years.
  - Woodbridge, Baldwin Rd. (WO 15) – Sent draft license agreement to use with the Sexton’s after learning that their father had passed a couple years ago.
- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in North Branford, Madison, Killingworth, and Guilford.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	105 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	0.5 acres

- North Branford, former trolley line – Met virtually again with UI’s real estate staff. Contacted Murtha staff about preparing the conflict waiver documents.
- East Haven, Borrmann Rd. drainage – Corresponded with abutter about water coming off the ridge.
- Hamden, Lake Whitney dam access – Waiting for Murtha to supply conflict waiver documents with UI.
- Madison class III land – Met with member of Madison’s affordable housing committee about class III land in town.
- Woodbridge, Fox Den Way (WO 15) – Received email from town staff about drainage issues with abutters.
- Deer hunt - The end of deer hunt surveys were distributed.

Mr. Triana solicited ideas for next month’s special topic. Committee members should contact the board office with suggestions.

Representative Policy Board  
Land Use Committee  
January 10, 2024

Chair Betkoski reviewed committee member attendance for the Authority meeting on January 25, 2024.

The next regular meeting is on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:15 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Havrda, and seconded by Mr. DeSantis, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

---

Peter Betkoski, Chairman