

Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
 South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
 January 8, 2025

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 8, 2025, at the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut and via remote access.

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

RPB: R. Harvey(R), C. Havrda(R), N. Campbell

Authority: D. Borowy(R) and M. Ricozzi

Management: S. Lakshminarayanan, V. Benni(R), J. Hill(R), J. Triana, and N. Smith

Chair Levine called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Ms. Young and seconded by Mr. Malloy, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of its December 11, 2024 meeting, as presented.

Ms. Smith, the RWA’s Natural Resources Analyst, provided an update on the 2024 Deer Hunt, which included:

- Historical review
- Deer density and reduction
- 2024 Season overview
- Permits and Harvest totals by area
- Volunteer program
- Future considerations and suggestions

She reported that the deadline for the deer hunt survey is January 31st. An update will be provided to the Committee once the information is available.

At 5:58 p.m., Ms. Smith withdrew from the 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
December 31	75%	94%	72%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
December 2024	5.15	9.49	4.15
Fiscal YTD (6/1/24 –	25.69	37.87	27.19

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

- Madison – Corresponded with property owner of 24+/- acres.
- Guilford - Corresponded with property owner of 3+/- acres.
- Seymour, 56 Squantuck Rd. (SE 5) – Booked town hall for the public hearing. Public notice published in newspapers.
- North Branford, Beech St. and Poms La. properties – Started marking new boundary lines. Neighbor asked about land available inside the curve of the roads (NB 4A).

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Town indicated that the application was not received in time for their Dec. meeting. Will be on the Jan. agenda.
- Woodbridge, 1029 Johnson Rd. – Prospective buyer of property emailed to ask more questions about the septic system.

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 (GU 12/12A) – 55% complete.
 - Repaired gate at Madison slash wall.
 - Conducted field and administrative activities for the firewood, maple tapping program, and Christmas tree field.
 - Submitted an update on website (ForMap) for the US Forest Service LSR grant.
 - Inspected Menunketuc timber harvest at least weekly.
 - Cleared the Dudley Pond overflow pipe of sticks and mud from beaver activity.

Recreation

- Bird walk at Prospect had 10 participants.
- Responded to question about access to Big Gulph area from a neighbor.
- Cleared trails at Maltby Lakes.
- Replaced malfunctioning lock at Lake Chamberlain.
- One staff member indicated he would not return for the 2025 season and two others have medical issues that will limit their availability.

	December		November	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
Permit Holders	4,787	4,742	4,838	4,730

Special Activity Permits

- A. DiCesare Associates (Clay Carlson)—perform a routine and underwater inspection of the Lake Whitney Bridge, contracted by CTDOT to perform the inspection; (12/12/2024).

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –

- West Haven, Shingle Hill Tanks (WH 7) – Yale’s contractor started work at the tanks.
 - West Haven tank sites (WH 3 and WH 7) – Met with town staff about creating new agreement for police, fire, EMS, and DPW use of antennas at Burwell and Shingle Hill tank sites. Said we would reinstitute an annual fee.
 - Seymour, Clinton Rd. (SE 7) – Corresponded with town staff and supplied them copies of the agreements for equipment at Seymour Wellfield and Clinton Rd. building.
 - East Haven, Barberry Rd. fields (EH 9, 10, 11, & 13) – Responded to tenant renting the fields about drainage at the site.
 - North Branford, Great Hill Rd. fields (NB 4) - Responded to tenant renting the fields about invasive plant management.
 - New Haven, Whalley Ave. PRV (NH 5) – Responded to inquiry from abutter about additional use of the property.
- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in North Branford. Contractor cleared about 2 acres of barberry at Lake Gaillard in coordination with new maple sugar permittee.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	10 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	4.2 acres

- Deer hunt – Post-hunt surveys have been received. The deadline for returning them is January 31.
- East Haven, Beach Ave. watermain – Application was uploaded to DEEP website with supporting documents. Notices sent out to town and abutters.
- New Haven, Sachem St. easement – Contacted Yale staff again in order to get easement for a portion of the street that was discontinued and is now owned by the university.
- North Haven, 60 Middletown Ave. easement – Asked by Contracts staff about property owner requesting release of easement for one of our abandoned water mains.
- Corresponded with Farmland Trust staff about acres we protect around Lake Chamberlain.
- West Haven, Maltby Lakes outflow – Corresponded with downstream neighbor on Winfred St. about high water levels. Let him know it was just recent rainfall and not any activity from us.
- Hamden, 205 Skiff St. – Responded to inquiries about our lease with ACES at the property that was sold to the school in the 1980’s.
- Lake Whitney Dam project, East Rock Park – NRA continued conducting a tree inventory inside the park where we will need access to the dam.
- Flood ALERT/Raw water – New bathymetric surveys of the West River lakes were reviewed and questions sent to the consultant. Consultant replied. Expect to update the surface water storage sheet for the new year with these figures.
- North Branford, UI watermain easement – Corresponded with town staff about getting an easement through their property. Supplied a boiler-plate easement for them to review.
- Cheshire, Oak Dr. – Researched question from Contracts staff about location of Oak Dr. which does not appear on current maps, but we have an easement near. Determined that the current Poplar Dr. is the old Oak Dr.

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- Drone flights – Conducted two flights at Prospect to document pre- and post-mowing. Conducted drone flight at Ford St. tank for Engineering. Inspected all the hatches on top of the tank to determine if people needed to make closer inspections. Met with stakeholders from MDC to discuss our drone program and demonstrate our drone’s capabilities in forestry and inspection work.

Committee members discussed special topics for upcoming meetings.

The committee reviewed volunteer assignments for the upcoming Regional Water Authority meeting on January 23, 2025.

The next regular meeting is on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:15 p.m., the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

Mark Levine, Chair

(R) = Attended remotely.