

Representative Policy Board  
**Land Use Committee**  
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District  
90 Sargent Drive, New Haven

Or

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### **AGENDA**

#### **Regular Meeting of Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.**

1. Safety Moment
2. Approval of Minutes – December 13, 2023 meeting
3. Review and discussion: Protecting Water Supply
4. Updates on land and RWA properties, including invasive species update
5. Other land items
6. Member to attend January 25, 2024 Authority Meeting: G. Malloy
7. Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
8. Adjourn

**\*\*Members of the public may attend the meeting in person or via remote access using instructions at the top of the agenda. To view meeting documents, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/tvu5cy9m>. For questions, contact the board office at 203-401-2515 or by email at [jslubowski@rwater.com](mailto:jslubowski@rwater.com)**

# SAFETY MOMENT

## JANUARY – FROSTBITE PREVENTION

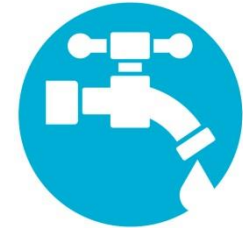
Even skin that is protected can be subject to frostbite. It's the most common injury resulting from exposure to severe cold, and it usually occurs on fingers, toes, nose, ears, cheeks and chin. If caught early, it is possible to prevent permanent damage.

### If you suspect frostbite:

- Get indoors immediately
- Seek medical attention
- Remove constrictive clothing and jewelry that could impair circulation
- Place dry, sterile gauze between toes and fingers to absorb moisture and keep them from sticking together
- Elevate the affected area to reduce pain and swelling
- For superficial frostbite, you may also place the affected area in water that is 100 to 105 degrees until the tissue softens



**Tap**Into  
**Safety**



Regional Water Authority



**FROSTbite**



Service – Teamwork – Accountability – Respect – Safety

Safety is a core company value at the Regional Water Authority .  
It is our goal to reduce workplace injuries to zero.

 Regional Water Authority

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

**Minutes of December 13, 2023 Meeting**

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, December 13, 2023 at 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut. Chair Betkoski presided.

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

**Committee Members Absent:** B. Eitzer

**Representative Policy Board:** R. Harvey

**RWA:** C. LaMarr and K. Curseaden

**Management:** L. Bingaman, R. Kowalski, S. Lakshminarayanan, and J. Triana

In Chair Betkoski’s absence, Mr. Levine called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Mr. Horbal, and seconded by Mr. Havrda, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of its November 8, 2023 regular meeting, with Mr. Malloy abstaining.

At 5:32 p.m., Mr. Oslander entered the meeting.

Mr. Levine stated that it would be appropriate to move the discussion regarding the proposed changes to the RWA’s Enabling Legislation after the Land Updates. It was the consensus of the Committee to move the discussion to Item #4 on the agenda.

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
November 30	86%	75%	66%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
November 2023	3.52	3.39	3.93
Fiscal YTD (6/1/23 – 11/30/23)	28.38	19.31	23.06

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

- Cheshire – Corresponded with property owner of 50+/- acres.
- Cheshire – Corresponded with property owner of 20+/- acres.
- North Haven – Corresponded with property owner of 15+/- acres.
- Branford – Corresponded with property owner of 3+/- acres.

- Bethany – Corresponded with property owner of 60+/- acres.
- Hamden – Corresponded with property owner of 10+/- acres.
- North Branford, Beech St. and Poms La. properties (NB 4) – Reviewed draft of the P&SA.

#### Rental houses:

- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Corresponded with Town Attorney. Said Asst. Town Attorney was having email problems. She forwarded his email stating he was checking with the court that week. I replied to him and he never responded.

#### 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.**
  - Cut autumn olive in the Christmas trees plantation.
  - Reviewed the terms of a conservation easement and discussed said information to a procurement forester planning an operation on the Lally property in Killingworth (CE – 2-KI).
  - After conducting initial inquiries and introductions, worked with Bromage and the Junivers on future use of sugar bushes at the Saltonstall and Gaillard properties.
  - Coordinated Christmas tree donation at the Gaillard tree farm for the Pardee Seawall Park in New Haven.
  - Met with adjoining landowner and CAES researcher to select a white ash study area at Lake Gaillard field site.

#### Recreation

- Held tree identification walk at Genesee with 9 attendees.
- Cleared more trails at Sugarloaf, Genesee, Maltby Lakes, and Big Gulph.
- Met with Bethany Horsemen representative about adding a water bar to a trail.
- Authorized dock manufacturer to provide 3 sections of new dock.
- The one Water Wagon reservation was cancelled due to illness of RWA staff.

	November		October	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Permit Holders	4,780	4,913	4,823	4,968

#### Special Activity Permits

- North Branford Land Conservation Trust (Mike Ferrucci and designess)—review of land to be purchased by North Branford Land Conservation Trust, (11/22/23).
- McLaren Engineering Group (Craig Plate) – Perform a routine and underwater inspection at Waite Street Bridge over Lake Whitney; contracted by CTDOT to perform the inspection; (11/30/2023).

- McLaren Engineering Group (Craig Plate) – perform a routine and underwater inspection at Davis Street Bridge over Lake Whitney, contracted by CTDOT to perform the inspection, (12/1/2023).

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
  - West Haven, Shingle Hill tanks (WH 7) – Signed off on our conflict waiver. Received new draft agreement from WH. Indicated that we were not interested in changing the timing to suit Yale's desires.
  - Hamden, New Haven Country Club parking lot (HA 5) – Received updated appraisal and informed NHCC staff what the fee will be for the next 5 years.
  - North Branford, Great Hill Rd. field (NB 4) – Sent updated agreement to the Page's to use this field. Also talked to them about what is and is not allowed to happen at the former Panko property that we have an easement on.
  - Hamden, High Rock tank (HA 22) – Received letter from Town to exercise their next 5-year extension for radio equipment.
  - Trespassing – Recorded instances of trespassing including people without permits, people with dogs, and ATV's.
- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in North Branford, West Haven, Orange, and East Haven.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	140 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	8.3 acres

At 5:40 p.m., Mr. Betkoski entered the meeting.

- Hamden, water main easement at Hamden Plaza – Hamden, water main easement at Hamden Plaza – Sent letter to owners of the Hamden Plaza and Wood-n-Tap.
- North Branford, former trolley line – Discussed idea with UI real estate department. They will be researching their deeds.
- Cheshire, proposed easement off of I-691 – DEEP staff rejected the concept of this easement. Notified Distribution staff.
- North Haven, Wharton Brook Industrial Park water main – Completed the forms and emailed to Amtrak staff.
- Hamden, Cumley Rd. ROW – Other RWA staff said the plan would be to cut and cap the main through this property and create a loop on the line to the north.
- New Haven, Rt. 80 PRV – Commented on proposed plans for new PRV on the Ross Woodward School grounds.
- Deer hunt – The hunt concluded on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>. Final harvest tally for 2023 - 54, 21 does and 33 bucks. By property: Gaillard - 15 does, 24 bucks; Bethany - 1 doe, 7 bucks; Prospect - 5 does, 2 bucks; Seymour - 0 deer harvested.
- Hamden, Lake Whitney dam access – Received draft license agreement and reviewed.
- Branford, WPCA pump station (BR 11) – Sent email to Branford Town Engineer about the sewage pump station.

- New Haven, Yale Golf Course Reviewed plans for drainage changes related to the golf course work.
- Hamden, Olin Powder Farms property – Met with Six Lakes Coalition members to discuss our property interests in the area.
- Drone flights – Performed drone flight at the Derby tank.

Chair Betkoski acknowledged Mr. Curseaden, Authority Vice Chair and liaison to the RPB Joint Committee on Enabling Legislation, who provided background and reasoning for the proposed changes, including additional amendments. He stated that the Authority and management are discussing the proposed changes with RPB members to gather feedback before the next meeting of the RPB Joint Committee on Enabling Legislation (“Joint Committee”) and a possible recommendation to the RPB in December.

Mr. Curseaden summarized the list of proposed changes, as follows:

1. Section 2, page 3, allowing RWA to conduct its non-core business outside of Connecticut.
2. Section 4, page 5, setting the Authority shall meet at least quarterly with the RPB.
3. Section 4, Page 6 correction of typo (the word timber)
4. Section 5, page 7, increasing the Authority board to seven members, providing exclusions to appointment (see below), no less than 5 members shall be residents of the district.
5. Section 9, page 8, allowing the Authority to meet at least quarterly. Also, setting that four members of Authority are a quorum.
6. Section 14, page 17, setting that interest rate can be applied to past due bills after the 28<sup>th</sup> day.
7. Section 18, page 21, combining (c) with (b) moving paragraph (c). Section 18, page 25, first paragraph, adding a period after the word records.
8. Section 19, page 25, raising the question if the \$2 million threshold for RPB approval of capital projects should be increased according to inflation as well as the non-core \$1 million threshold. Also comports section 19 to section 18 to exclude vacancies when calculating the total weighted votes of the RPB membership need to approve various items.
9. Section 21, page 26, raising the question if the word “improvements” should be defined to eliminate questions about the applicability of certain provisions.
10. Section 22, page 31, correcting the spelling of the word “all”.
11. Section 30, page 35, question if the threshold for RPB approval of a project should be increased.
12. Special Act 03-12, page 40, correcting the word “affect” to “effect”.
13. Section 2, page 3, add “sustainable manufacturing support” to allowed non-core business activity
14. Section 22 (b), page 27 remove “not exceeding forty years from their respective dates”
15. Section 22 (h), page 30 remove “any bonds issued by it at a price of not more than the principal amount thereof and accrued interest”
16. Section 4, page 4 and 5, RPB compensation – update to base compensation amount, change to every third vs. fifth year, and update referenced dates
17. Section 5, page 7, Authority board term limits (e.g., limit of 3 or 4 terms)
18. Section 5, page 7, consider including a CPI factor for Authority board member compensation, applicable every three years, subject to RPB approval.

Committee members discussed modifications to the language related to increasing the Authority requirement for members from five to seven, flexibility with monthly Authority meetings, increasing the number of members required for a quorum, increasing the threshold for RPB approval for: 1)

capital projects from \$2 million to \$4 million, and 2) commercial business acquisitions from \$1 million to \$1.5 million and related inflation adjustments, and adding term limits for Authority members.

Mr. Levine also stated that Atty. Donofrio, Office of Consumer Affairs, would be meeting with members of the Executive Committee and management in January to discuss commercial business in more depth.

Mr. Bingaman, the RWA's President & Chief Executive Officer, stated that the proposed changes would need to be finalized by December 21, 2023 due to an early legislative session set to begin mid-January and end in February. The RWA is also working with Gaffney Bennett consultants and lobbying firm, as well as an in-house lobbyist. He noted that feedback should be forwarded to the board office prior to the next Joint Committee meeting on Wednesday, December 20, 2023.

The Committee discussed the date of the special joint meeting with the RPB Consumer Affairs Committee to review the RWA's FY 2025 Budget. After discussion, it was the consensus of the committee to hold the special joint meeting on Monday, April 15, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

There were no other land items to report.

Chair Betkoski reviewed committee member attendance for the following Authority meetings:

- December 21, 2023 – Mr. Levine
- January 25, 2024 – Mr. Malloy

The next regular meeting is on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:45 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy, and seconded by Mr. Levine, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

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Peter Betkoski, Chairman

**January 10, 2024**  
**Land Use Committee Meeting**

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.
- 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.

#### Attachments

- December 26, 2023 - Zombie deer disease is a 'slow moving disaster'. Why scientists say humans should 'be prepared'. – USA Today
- December 21, 2023 - Hold PFAS Pollution Creators Responsible, Not Those Charged with Cleaning Mess – National Association of Water Companies
- December 28, 2023 - Milder winters mean more of this insect invading CT's hemlock trees – CT Public Radio
- January 4, 2024 - CT residents asked to be on lookout for invasive spotted lanternflies before they become 'active' – NH Register

#### Upcoming Agenda Items

February 2024 -

## **Zombie deer disease is a 'slow moving disaster'. Why scientists say humans should 'be prepared'.**

Sara Chernikoff – 12/26/2023 - USA TODAY

Chronic wasting disease is sometimes referred to as "zombie deer disease," or affected deer can be called "zombie deer" due to the neurological signs of the disease, which include weight loss, lack of coordination, listlessness and drooling.

The disease mainly affects free-ranging deer, elk and moose, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Although there have been no infections in humans, scientists warned that the disease is a "slow moving disaster" for humans.

Here's where "zombie deer disease" has been reported so far:

Reports of chronic wasting disease in the U.S. and abroad

Chronic wasting disease has been found in animal populations in at least 31 U.S. states, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Earlier this month, Kentucky confirmed a case of CWD when officials with the state Department of Fish and Wildlife announced that the disease was detected in a 2-year-old white-tailed deer harvested by a hunter in November.

CWD has also been found in three Canadian provinces.

Outside of North America, chronic wasting disease has been reported in reindeer and moose in Norway, Finland and Sweden, and a few imported cases have been reported in South Korea.

How does the disease spread?

The disease can have an incubation period of over a year, and signs of the disease may develop slowly.

Scientists believe the disease spreads through contact with contaminated body fluids and tissue, or through the environment, including drinking water and food, the CDC says.

CWD was first discovered in Colorado in 1967, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, and has since spread to a number of states and to countries around the world. No infections have been reported in humans, although research suggests the disease is more transmissible to humans from animals than was previously thought.

Can zombie deer disease spread to humans?

While there have been no infections to humans, some scientists are sounding the alarm that governments prepare for the potential for CWD to spread.

Dr. Cory Anderson, a program co-director at the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP), told The Guardian, "The mad cow disease outbreak in Britain provided an example of how, overnight, things can get crazy when a spillover event happens from, say, livestock to people."

## **Hold PFAS Pollution Creators Responsible, Not Those Charged with Cleaning Mess**

December 21, 2023 – National Association of Water Companies

PHILADELPHIA – The National Association of Water Companies (NAWC) today issued a statement from the Association's President and CEO Robert F. Powelson on class action lawsuits against water utilities over PFAS:

"While class action lawsuits often drive positive social change, the recent claims against water utilities for 'forever chemicals' found in drinking water are severely misguided.

"Water utilities do not use, manufacture, or profit from forever chemicals like PFAS and PFOA. However, they are on the front lines of cleaning up this contamination and are grappling with the billions of dollars in costs associated with this effort. NAWC's utilities are committed to providing customers with safe drinking water. They have been addressing PFAS chemicals found in their water sources and will work diligently to comply with forthcoming guidance from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

"It is important to remember that it is the purview of the experts at the EPA to determine whether and at what amounts a chemical is unsafe and should be removed from the nation's drinking water. We must allow the EPA's experts to conduct the requisite analysis to establish an appropriate national drinking water standard for PFAS, rather than individual utilities getting in front of the regulatory process and making scattershot determinations about what is safe. A well-researched, uniform national drinking water standard set by the EPA for PFAS is a much better outcome for everyone.

"The companies that created forever chemicals, and generated billions, if not trillions, of dollars in profits by introducing PFAS into the environment must be held accountable for the costs of removing forever chemicals from our water – not water utilities and consumers. NAWC's members are seeking to achieve this by either participating in a class action lawsuit or pursuing individual litigation against the chemical manufacturers.

"Lawsuits against utilities for the forever chemicals found in drinking water are directed at the wrong party. NAWC's water utilities are already doing the right thing – testing their systems and taking steps to treat for PFAS chemicals while waiting for the EPA to issue final guidance on a national drinking water standard for these chemicals. In the meantime, water systems and their customers are already taking on disproportionate financial responsibility for cleaning up a problem they did not create. Rather than bringing litigation against the water utilities that are working to remediate this contamination, we should all work to hold accountable those who are truly responsible for the problem.

## **Milder winters mean more of this insect invading CT's hemlock trees**

Connecticut Public Radio - Michayla Savitt - December 28, 2023

Cold winters are key to curbing an invasive pest that's depleted Eastern hemlock trees for decades in Connecticut. Warm winters, fueled in part by climate change, allow these insects to spread — but a deep cold snap in 2023 slowed their advance.

On Feb. 3, an arctic cold front hit the region, wiping out an average of 90% of Connecticut's hemlock woolly adelgid population.

Carole Cheah, a research scientist with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, personally visited over 35 sampling sites around the state after the cold snap and saw the impact. The cold snap was so impactful on the hemlock woolly adelgid in part because of a lack of snow to insulate the population.

"Most insects are overwintering; hiding in crevices. They're not out there, exposed to this extreme cold, whereas the adelgid is," Cheah said.

Winter kill temperatures for adelgid vary based on the area of the state, Cheah said. This winter, temperatures are projected to be "leaning above" normal in the region, federal weather officials said, but powerful and cold nor'easters are still possible. 2023 brought record-high global temperatures, driven by climate change and El Niño.

Eastern hemlocks have many uses, from sheltering wildlife, improving stream water quality, and creating lumber, paper and mulch. The insect, native to Japan, attaches itself to the stem of the hemlock trees and feeds on its sap.

"It drains the tree's resources, and the tree is unable to put out new growth. And unfortunately, the health of the trees depend on having this new foliage to photosynthesize and replenish all their reserves," Cheah said.

Drought also puts pressure on the hemlocks. Historic drought conditions have affected New England as recently as 2020 and 2022, while 2023 brought record rainfall to the region.

Cheah has studied the hemlock woolly adelgid for 30 years and has observed its expansion to new locations in Connecticut, like higher elevation areas. Her team currently uses ladybeetles, a native predator of the adelgid, as a way to control infestations.

The adelgids wiped out in February 2023 were one of two generations that develop every year. Cheah said that for now, this is good news for the state's Eastern hemlock trees: She's had to search closely to find more pockets of the pest.

According to new U.S. Forest Service insect research, the adelgid caused damage across almost 6,000 acres of Eastern hemlock trees in 2022.

## **CT residents asked to be on lookout for invasive spotted lanternflies before they become 'active'**

Jessica Bravo – NHR - Jan. 4, 2024

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station said experts will continue to work on detecting spotted lanternfly populations in 2024 before they become "active."

In a news release Wednesday, CAES said it would work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Plant Protection and Quarantine as the population of the invasive bug has expanded in the past several years.

A "lanternfly boom" first occurred within the state in 2020. Since then, their population remained rampant "in cities because trees-of-heaven are commonly found in cities."

CAES said that in the past 3 years, spotted lanternflies have been found, or at least reported, in six out of the state's eight counties: Hartford, Middlesex, Litchfield, Fairfield, New Haven and New London counties.

"The distribution of this insect continues to expand, posing a threat to the agriculture and forests of Connecticut, hence the renewal and expansion of the quarantine noted in the original order," CAES said. "Early detection is important, and the public is urged to report potential sightings of this invasive pest when they become active again in 2024."

During the cold seasons, most lanternflies freeze and die, but their eggs are able to survive, according to CAES. They said the eggs do not hatch until late April through June.

Experts say if you see spotted lanternfly eggs or the bugs themselves, you should kill them to protect the ecosystem.

The state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection said many different types of native plants are susceptible to be "vulnerable" targets to the lanternflies.

"Even if the insect does not kill the trees, it could destroy the value of the fruit," DEEP said. "The impact on the agricultural industry of Connecticut could be devastating."