

Representative Policy Board  
**Land Use Committee**  
 South Central Connecticut Regional Water District  
 August 14, 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, August 14, 2024, at the Seymour Wellfield, 151 Roosevelt Drive, Seymour, Connecticut. Chair Levine presided.

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

**RPB:** R. Harvey and T. Clifford

**Authority:** D. Borowy and C. LaMarr

**Management:** Jim Hill, Sunny Lakshminarayanan, and J. Triana

Chair Levine 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. Horbal, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of its July 10, 2024 meeting.

Mr. Lakshminarayanan, the RWA’s Vice President of Engineering & Environmental Services, and Mr. Hill, the RWA’s General Manager and Head of Operations, provided an update on the Seymour Wellfield generator replacement project, which involves the demolition and replacement of the existing diesel generator. The Committee discussed project delays, bidding, schedule, funding, and other miscellaneous improvements.

Update on *The Land We Need for the Water We Use Program* – Mr. Triana reported:

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average	Drought Status
July 31	90%	95%	81%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
July 2024	5.24	7.08	3.75
Fiscal YTD (6/1/24 –	9.18	9.56	7.46

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

- East Haven – Corresponded with property owner of 22+/- acres.
- Hamden, Preisner property – Marked boundaries.
- Cheshire, Bis/Bowman property – Inspected newly proposed property lines and removal of the farm dump materials. Notified by DEEP that we will receive a OSWLA grant for the property. Attended Governor’s press conference announcing the awards.
- North Branford, Beech St. and Poms La. properties (NB 4) – NBLCT updated their survey after DEEP surveyor’s comments.

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- Seymour, Silver Mine Rd. (SE 9) – Emailed town staff that we were not interested in selling any of the Class III acres.

Rental houses:

- Woodbridge, 2040 Litchfield Tpk. – Met with owner and representative of Preservation Connecticut to discuss chimney in kitchen.
- Woodbridge, 115 Sperry Rd. – Responded to question from owner about history of the well.

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 (GU12/12A) – 20% complete.
  - Trained Natural Resource Specialists in various field skills, including tree measurements, small equipment usage, tree care, and steam weeder deployment including safety practices associated with these activities.
  - Met with witch hazel harvester.
  - Worked with two maple tapers to explore transferring sugarbush from one to the other.
  - Met with the Connecticut Land Conservation Council’s Climate Smart Stewardship Coordinator to plan a forest adaptation workshop.
  - Met volunteers from the Native Plant Trust checking on population of cattail sedge and identifying new populations nearby.

Recreation

- Discussed access to Lake Chamberlain with Bethany Horsemen.
- Issued key to Bethany Horsemen for trail maintenance.
- Received DPH recreation activity permit renewals for Hammonasset, Saltonstall, Big Gulph, Sugarloaf, Genesee, and Pine Hill.
- Hosted six events for kids at Maltby Lakes: New Haven Police Activity League (3), Milford Boys & Girls Club (2), and Hamden Hall. Approximately 180 children attended events during July. Some fish caught at the events were donated to a bird habilitation facility.
- Recycled lead sinkers and plastic lures.
- The Water Wagon attended six events in July.

	July		June	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
Permit Holders	4,929	4,879	4,989	4,980

Special Activity Permits

- New Haven Bird Club (Patrick Leahy) – Fall Migrant and Foliage Walk to observe species that are nesting on Lake Chamberlain along the Sargent River, (10/15/24).
- New Haven Bird Club (Patrick Leahy) – Fall Migrant and Foliage Walk to observe fall birds and beautiful tree colors, Lake Dawson, (11/2/24).

- New Haven Bird Club (Patrick Leahy) – spring bird walk to observe species nesting on Lake Chamberlain, special emphasis on Bluebird/Tree swallow trail of bird houses, Lake Chamberlain, (5/21/25).
- New Haven Bird Club (Patrick Leahy) – spring bird walk to observe species nesting on Lake Watrous, special emphasis on Bluebird/Tree swallow trail of bird houses, Lake Watrous, (5/28/25).
- Western CT Orienteering Club – (Ms. Susan DeWitt and designees) – cross country race on foot, property near Ansonia Nature Center, 2000’ to the north of Nature Center with frontage on Rimmon Rd. (Rt. 313) in Seymour, 10/27/24.
- U. S. Geological Survey (Sydney Welch, Physical Scientist) - Take water level measurement of a monitoring well located on SCCRWA property-Middletown Avenue, North Branford (One short visit between (7/17/24-8/31/24)
- CT Forest & Park Assoc. (CFPA) (Elizabeth Merow) conduct tour of property, Master Woodland Manager Program, forestry ecology, Rt. 79 Madison-Nathan’s Pond, (9/21/24)

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
  - Agricultural agreements – Spoke to potential farmer for fields on the west side. Renewed hay agreement for field with Wettemann (NB 5A).
  - Hamden, 14 Russell St. (HA 6B) – Signed agreement for fence along the property line.
  - Orange, 854 Greenway Rd. (OR 4) – Signed license agreement for lawn and cart path.
  - Hamden, 245 Ives St. (HA 39) – Signed license agreement for lawn.
  - West Haven, Hood Terrace (WH 8) – Verified that dumpsters have been removed from our property.
  - Hamden, 95 Booth Ter. (HA 22 & HA 22A) – Met with abutter to review the new pins that were set.
  - West Haven, Shingle Hill Tanks (WH 7) – Engineering staff stated Yale’s structural analysis was satisfactory. Reviewed red-lined version of the agreement and sent final comments to Murtha.
- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in North Branford, Branford, and East Haven. Water chestnut harvest for 2024 was completed. Flew drone missions at Furnace Pond to document the pre- and post-harvest conditions. Showed water chestnut harvest to UConn staff. Used new steam weeder in the Christmas tree plantation other sites at Lake Gaillard.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	22 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	0.5 acres

- Deer hunt – Proficiency tests were conducted at Lake Gaillard. Nineteen hunters passed the test.
- West Haven, Allings Crossing Rd. (WH 6) – Continued corresponding with UI/Avangrid staff about a license agreement at the property. Engineering cleared us to sign the agreement.
- Orange, Baldwin Rd. utility pole – UI/Avangrid staff said they would forward a license agreement to use for the guy wire and anchor.

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- Hamden, Lake Whitney access – Signed license agreement for access through UI/Avangrid property to the dam.
- Drone inspections – Flew drone missions documenting work at the Prospect Reservoir dam. Hosted a meeting to discuss drone models and uses with multiple parties in the natural resources industry.
- Water main easement encroachments – Met with others to discuss our approach to finding and dealing with encroachments over water main easements.

There were no other land items to report.

The next regular meeting is on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. at Furnace Pond in Branford.

At 6:32 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy and seconded by Mr. Eitzer, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

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Mark Levine, Chair