

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

Minutes of September 13, 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, September 13, 2023 at the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, 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

RPB: R. Harvey

Management: S. Lakshminarayanan, J. Hill and Capt. Ruggiero

In Chair Betkoski’s absence, Mr. Malloy called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Mr. Horbal, and seconded by Ms. Young, the Committee approved the minutes of its August 9, 2023 regular meeting.

At 4:50 p.m., Chair Betkoski entered the meeting.

Update on *The Land We Need for the Water We Use Program* – Mr. Lakshminarayanan, the RWA’s Vice President of Engineering and Environmental Services, reported:

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average	Drought Status
August 31	91%	74%	74%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
August 2023	4.90	2.13	3.96
Fiscal YTD (6/1/23 – 8/31/23)	14.46	6.31	11.41

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 Haven – Corresponded with property owner of 14+/- acres.
- North Branford, Beech St. and Poms La. properties (NB 4) – Notice of the public hearings was published in the newspapers.
- Cheshire – Reviewed information from Engineering regarding a proposed pump station.
- New Haven, Rt. 80 PRV – Reviewed draft deed for use with the city at the school property.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Asst. Town Attorney replied saying the town was determining how to pay for the condemnation.

- Woodbridge, 1029 Johnson Rd. – Corresponded with property owners about progress at the property.

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.
- Worked with Woodbridge DPW to properly align locks at the Sperry Rd. gate.
 - Submitted 490 forestland applications to Prospect (200 Saddle Ct.) and Guilford (off of West St.). QFR also completed for 490 open space application for 1385 West St., Guilford.
 - Surveyed extent of beech leaf disease die-off particularly in Northford along Diversion and Bianchi Roads and in Woodbridge along Sperry Road.
 - Collected and submitted an additional chestnut leaf sample to US Forest Service’s New England Science Coordinator for species confirmation.

Recreation

- Corresponded with person who claimed to be owed a complimentary recreation pass.
- Worked with other RWA staff to address issues on the website to buy and renew permits.
- Cleared trails at Chamberlain and Hammonasset.
- The Water Wagon attended six events in August.
- The order for walleye stocking was submitted.

	August		July	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Permit Holders	4,883	5,102	4,879	5,218

Special Activity Permits

- CT Forest & Park Assoc. (CFPA) (Elizabeth Merow) conduct tour of property, Master Woodland Manager Program, forestry ecology, Rt. 79 Madison-Nathan’s Pond, (9/16/23)

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Hamden, 33 Rolling Ridge Rd. (HA 12) – License agreement for lawn with adjacent property owners filed on the land records.
 - North Branford, 261 Forest Rd. (NB 17) – Continued to leave text messages for property owner.
 - West Haven, Shingle Hill tanks (WH 7) – Reviewed draft agreement to be used with Yale. City executed amendment to the license agreement with the them.
 - Trespassing – Recorded instances of trespassing including hikers with dogs, hikers entering the property after dusk, and ATV’s.

- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in North Branford, Guilford, and Madison. Met a UConn grad student to look at sites where Japanese barberry had been mechanically pulled at Lake Gaillard. The information will help with research in determining land use changes and invasive species identification via satellite imagery. Met with a URI grad student to look at areas in Saltonstall and Gaillard where a swallowwort biocontrol had been released. It appears that the release at Gaillard may have been successful, since predation was found on both sides of the lake, when the release only happened on the west side. Completed drone flight at Furnace Pond to document this year's water chestnut harvest.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	83.5 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	8.5 acres

- Hamden, Sherman Ave. request – Rejected request from abutter to cut trees and brush on our property close to the Mill River and Clark's Pond.
- East Haven, Rock Rd. SNET equipment – Alerted by local resident that old SNET equipment in an area covered by a 1981 easement was being damaged and vandalized. Attempted to contact SNET.
- Contacted by woman who thought there was a submerged vehicle in Saltonstall. Shape that was seen was vegetation on a satellite photo.
- Orange water main easement – Filed easement off of Smith Farm Rd. on the town land records.
- Deer hunt - The check station volunteers have been chosen and the acceptance and rejection letters went. Pre-hunt meetings have been scheduled. Flagging of the areas has started.
- Vault – Filed the documents regarding the Derby tank. Corresponded with GIS staff about a missing easement for a water main off of Lake St. in Hamden. Filed certification of compliance regarding Hamden Middle School remediation in vault.
- Hamden, water main easement at Hamden Plaza – Alerted by GIS staff that there was a patio visible on aerial photos over the water main at Wood-n-Tap. Contacted the owners to meet and discuss the issue.
- Clearing water main easements – Responded to questions from Operations staff about clearing vegetation along water main easements in Prospect/Cheshire (Cornwall Ave.) and Branford (Milo Dr.).
- Drone flights – Conducted drone flights at Derby tank site and the West River DAF project.

At 5:00 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy, and seconded by Mr. Havrda, the Committee voted unanimously to convene in executive session pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200(6)(C) to discuss security strategy. Present in executive session were Committee members, Messrs. Harvey, Hill, Lakshminarayanan, Ruggiero, and Ms. Slubowski.

At 5:34 p.m., the Committee came out of executive session. No votes were taken in, or as a result of, executive session.

There were no other land items to report.

Committee assignments for the next quarter Authority meetings were made, as follows:

Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
September 13, 2023

- October 26, 2023 – M. Levine
- November 16, 2023 – J. Oslander
- December 21, 2023 – G. Malloy
- January 25, 2024 – TBD

The next meeting is on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

At 5:44 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Levine, and seconded by Ms. Young, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Peter Betkoski, Chairman