

Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
October 22, 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, October 22, 2025, at Lake Saltonstall, 100 Hosley Avenue, Branford, Connecticut. Chair Levine presided.

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

RPB: R. Harvey, T. Clifford, J. DiCarlo, C. Havrda, and C. Mancini

FMA: D. Borowy and S. Sack

Management: V. Benni, J. Hill, P. Singh, Capt. P. Ruggiero, Sgt. D. Putnam, and J. Triana

Staff: J. Slubowski

Chair Levine called the meeting to order at 4:47 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

On motion made by Mr. Malloy and seconded by Ms. Young, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of its September 10, 2025 regular meeting.

Captain Ruggiero, the RWA’s Police Captain, provided an update on improvements done at RWA owned facilities and recreation areas, which included:

- Installed new burglar and fire alarms
- Repaired chain link fence and gate in North Branford
- Replaced box fence in Woodbridge
- Updated access control at Cheshire facility
- Repaired gate at Lake Saltonstall

Future improvements included upgrading the current radio system to the State Police frequency.

He also reported on the 2020 Police Accountability Bill, which required RWA officers to complete three tiers of training/certifications. To date, RWA officers completed Tier 1 in 2023, Tier 2 in February 2025, and are currently on track to complete Tier 3 by the end of 2025.

Capt. Ruggiero also reported on incidents in 2023 and 2024:

	2023 3 OFFICERS NO SECOND SHIFT	2024 6 OFFICERS WITH SECOND SHIFT
ARRESTS/INFRACTIONS	40	173
WARNINGS	90	463
PATROL CHECKS	1169	4344
RECREATION CHECKS	279	1418

TOTAL CASE #S	1820	6744
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Committee members thanked Capt. Ruggiero for the update.

Update on *The Land We Need for the Water We Use Program* – Mr. Triana, the RWA’s Real Estate Manager, reported:

<u>Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)</u>				
	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average	Drought Status
September	68%	80%	68%	None

<u>Rainfall (inches)</u>			
	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
September 30	1.66	1.30	3.81
Fiscal YTD (6/1/24 –	6.40	16.79	15.20

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

- Cheshire, former Bis property (CH 5) – Corresponded with DEEP regarding grant.
- Hamden, Davis St., and Hartford Tpk. (HA 5A) – Resent DOT the forms for the condemnation.
- Hamden, Treadwell St. (HA 7) – Sent DOT forms for these condemnations.
- Prospect - Corresponded with property owner of 16+/- acres.
- Cheshire, Cheshire Rd. properties – Provided letter of support to Cheshire Land Trust for an OSWA application they are submitting for properties on the North Cheshire Wellfield Aquifer.
- Seymour, 56 Squantuck Rd. (SE 5) – Received the fully executed P&SA from the town.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Public hearing was held on September 25, 2025.

Forestry Update

- Received approval for grant funding through the New England Forest Foundation (NEFF). Stakeholders from NEFF visited three project sites from the proposed 500 acres that the RWA would like to advance timber markets on through timber stand improvement.
- Madison, Weber property (MA 6B) – QFR submitted with 490 application to the town assessor.
- Signed up for NRCS’s Technical Service Provider training and met with HR staff regarding eligibility for incentive payments.

Recreation

- Lake Gaillard Walk-a-thon had about 160 attendees.
- Oak tree walk at Lake Saltonstall had 6 attendees.
- Contractor cleared trails at Lake Bethany and Lake Chamberlain.
- Checked bog bridges at Lake Hammonasset.
- Made 25 bags of recycled bait for future fishing events.
- Peter Hlousek retired from the recreation staff.
- The Water Wagon attended three events in September.

	September		August	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Permit Holders	4,892	4,846	4,916	4,880

Special Activity Permits

- University of New Haven (Dr. Albert C. Nyack) - studying qualitative and quantitative data at different locations along the West River watershed. Lesson entails sampling flow rate, water's width, DO, temperature at the Lake Bethany Dam culvert on the downstream side (9/15/2025 – 9/19/25 8 am – 3 pm, 80 students and instructors).
- CTDEEP (Alexander J. Amendola, Forester) - utilize the shoreline of both reservoirs as sample areas for mesic soil-affiliated species of shrubs and trees species (primarily Salix spp., Cephalanthus spp., Ulmus spp., and others and to observe the effects of changing water tables on these species of woody plants. This data will be compared to growth habits of the same species in more static ecosystems with less dynamic hydrological fluctuations. No physical samples will be removed; only measurements taken. Lake Gaillard-North Branford, Lake Hammonasset-Killingworth (9/22/2025-9/22/2026).
- New England Intercollegiate Geologic Conference (Ryan Deasy) - college students and faculty will visit several exposures of rock ledge as part of a field trip with the New England Intercollegiate Geologic Conference. The visit is observational only no sample collection or alteration of the rock exposures; Maltby Lakes (10/3/2025).
- Univ. of New Haven Army ROTC Program Coordinator (Robert Clark) - Squad Tactical and Platoon Tactical Training - 1955 Litchfield Turnpike/West River Training Area, Woodbridge (9/23/25 – 9/23/26).
- New Haven Bird Club (Glen Cummings, Gilles Carter)-to maintain and monitor bluebird nesting boxes, Christmas Tree Fields (North Street and Great Hill Road) North Branford, (3/21/26-8/31/26).

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Madison, 702 Summer Hill Rd. (MA 9) – Abutter will move shed and shipping container after installing underground utilities.
 - North Branford, 1790 Middletown Ave. (NB 16) – Executed license agreement for lawn and footbridges.
 - Branford, Cherry Hill Rd. (BR 10A) – Executed license agreement for lawn.
 - Bethany, Downs Rd. turnaround (BE 17) – Town sent letter asking to invoke final 5-year term of this license agreement.
- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in Prospect, Bethany, and Branford. Met with CAES staff to discuss the pilot study to see if steam had a negative effect on swallowwort seed viability and germination.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	12.5 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	2.25 acres

- Woodbridge, Racebrook Rd. access (WO 10) – Abutter to respond to RWA's query on the purpose of the easement.
- Deer hunt – Flagged boundaries and researchers were notified about the dates of the hunt. Pre-hunt meetings were held.

- Madison, Race Hill Rd. erosion (MA 2A) – Notified Madison town engineer about erosion issue occurring on our property off of Race Hill Rd. coming from storm water discharge.
- Bethany, Green Haven/Rocky Corner – RWA's teams working with DPH on well radius and other ownership/operation agreements.
- Hamden, Connolly Parkway (HA 9A) – Fence damage caused by vehicle being investigated by RWA PD.
- Bethany, Carrington Rd. guide rail (BE 6A) – Town notified RWA of installing a guiderail which would affect some of our frontage.
- Hamden, WPCA work (HA 5) – Notified our tenant beekeeper of activity by WPCA in their easement adjacent to Lake Whitney later this winter.
- Drone flights – RWA's teams commenced a pilot study to explore use of drone sensors to determine earthen dam stability.

There were no other land items to report.

Chair Levine reviewed upcoming Authority meeting assignments:

- October 23, 2025 – J. Mowat Young
- November 20, 2025 – J. Oslander
- December 18, 2025 – G. Malloy
- January 22, 2026 – P. Betkoski

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

At 5:14 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy and seconded by Mr. Eitzer, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

Mark Levine, Chair