

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

Minutes of August 9, 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, August 9, 2023 at the Derby Tank, 73-75 Chatfield Street, Derby, Connecticut. Chair Betkoski presided.

Committee Members Present: P. Betkoski, P. DeSantis, B. Eitzer, C. Havrda, M. Horbal, M. Levine, and G. Malloy

Committee Members Absent: J. Oslander and J. Mowat Young

RPB: R. Harvey, N. Campbell, T. Clifford, and S. Mongillo

Authority: Catherine LaMarr

Management: J. Hill, S. Lakshminarayanan, C. Savoy, and J. Triana

Chair Betkoski 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. Eitzer, the Committee approved the minutes of its July 12, 2023 regular meeting, with Mr. Horbal abstaining.

Mr. Savoy, the RWA’s Project Engineer, provided an update of the Derby Tank project. He reported that the project, approved by the Representative Policy Board in 2019, was necessary for water supply to the existing Ansonia-Derby service area. The existing system had limited capacity during high peak demands. Mr. Savoy stated that the project includes the installation of a new concrete tank with roof access hatches, sidewall access manways, safety rails and stairs. The project also includes an internal mixing system, instrumentations, SCADA communications, electrical equipment, and piping and a pipe vault.

He reported that the project was delayed due to legal challenges but was approved by the town in May 2022. The project contract is nearing completion and the tank is expected to be online in October 2023 and expected to last for approximately 50-75 years.

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
July 31	95%	82%	81%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
July 2023	7.08	1.11	3.74
Fiscal YTD (6/1/23 – 7/31/23)	9.56	4.18	7.44

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

- Cheshire – Corresponded with property owner of 50+/- acres.
- North Branford, Beech St. and Pumps La. properties (NB 4) – LUC determined that both applications were complete and forwarded them onto the full RPB. Town Hall was reserved as the location for the public hearings.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Asst. Town Attorney wrote asking us to provide a value for the property to be condemned. We provided \$5,000 as the amount we would accept.

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.
 - Placed five new woodcutters in woodlots.
 - Surveyed effects of beech leaf disease in areas of Northford.
 - Investigated and responded to complaints from firewood cutter who raised concerns regarding a potentially hazardous tree on his RWA woodlot.
 - Collected and submitted leaf samples to US Forest Service's New England Science Coordinator for a citizen-scientist, American chestnut identification and location project.
 - Supervised an American chestnut flower cross-pollination effort as part of bioregional effort to preserve the species local genetic diversity.
 - Drafted three PA-490 tax abatement applications.
 - Collected inventory data for the 200 Saddle Court PA-490 application.
 - Continued to investigate sugar maple die-off event on Saltonstall Ridge and contacted CAES experts for on-going follow-up toward identifying casual factor(s).

Recreation

- Botany walk at Rt. 42, Bethany had 5 attendees.
- Bass tournament at Lake Saltonstall had 34 participants. We switched to a catch-photo-release format for the tournament and it worked out well and made it easier for the recreation staff.
- Hamden Hall camp brought 50 kids to the Maltby Lakes for a morning of fishing and hiking.
- New Haven Police PAL's camp group also came twice to the Maltby Lakes to fish with about 30 kids each time.
- Issued work orders for trail mowing at various locations.
- Cleared downed tree at Old Mill Rd., Bethany.
- The Water Wagon attended four events in July.
- Discussed option to use PayTrac to collect credit card payments for boat rentals at Lake Saltonstall.

	July		June	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Permit Holders	4,879	5,218	4,980	5,218

Special Activity Permits

- Branford Community Television (BCTV) (Ted Ebberts) Rest stop for annual fundraiser “Tour de Branford” - Sugarloaf Parking Lot (9/24/23)
- Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station-(Dr. Elisabeth Ward) conduct research on invasive plants and regenerating ash trees by monitoring plots in areas where ash been affected by Emerald Ash Borer. In ash stand along Farm River at the northern end of Lake Gaillard (7/6/2023-7/6/2024)
- Connecticut Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation-(Mr. Jack Swatt) flowering chestnut trees on RWA property to harvest nuts to plant in their Germplasm Conservation Orchards to preserve genetic diversity of the species (9/1/23-9/30/23)

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Hamden, New Haven Country Club (HA 5) – Executed amended agreement for the parking area.
 - Hamden, 33 Rolling Ridge Rd. (HA 12) – Executed license agreement for lawn with adjacent property owners.
 - North Branford, 261 Forest Rd. (NB 17) – Called and left messages for property owner. By end of the month, their VM inbox was full.
 - West Haven, Shingle Hill tanks (WH 7) – Continued to correspond with the contractor for Yale re: using the tanks for a repeater. Sent them plans for the tank that we received from the original manufacturer. Received red-lined version of license agreement from Yale. Corresponded with West Haven staff about amending the license agreement with the City.
 - Trespassing – Recorded instances of trespassing including hikers without permits, dirt bikes, fishermen with alcohol and without permits, ATV’s, and people on horses without permits
- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in North Branford, Branford, East Haven, Prospect, and Hamden. Released bio-control for hemlock woolly adelgid at Lake Glen. Water chestnut harvesting concluded with extra days on the schedule. Conducted drone flights to document the extent of the infestation.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	79.5 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	10.4 acres

- East Haven, Beach Ave. watermain – Corresponded with Tighe and Bond staff regarding the DEEP permit application. Emailed update to one of the residents.
- Regional Conservation Partnership – Corresponded with other members of the RCP steering committee about future plans for the organization.
- Branford, Blackstone Ave. water main – Met with Murtha and RWA staff about the matter. Town staff confirmed it was a private passway. Sent letter to the resident of 1 Blackstone Ave. Authorized title report before our next move.
- Hamden, Waite St. and Mather St. vegetation (HA 6, HA 7, & HA 9) – Corresponded with Operations staff about mowing vegetation growing through the fence.
- Cheshire, Fernwood La. easement – Responded to property owner about our easements in this area.
- East Haven, Pine View Dr. (EH 3) – Replied to letter from owners of 39 Pine View Dr. regarding boundary markings and fence that was destroyed during the August 2020 tornado.

- Deer hunt - Proficiency testing was held on two Saturdays. Twelve hunters passed and one failed.

Committee members discussed the hiring status of RWA Police and possible camera footage at a future committee meeting. Mr. Lakshminarayanan reported that the RWA recently hired one new officer is currently in the hiring process for additional officers.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

At 6:15 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Levine, and seconded by Mr. Eitzer, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Peter Betkoski, Chairman