

Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
 South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
 June 12, 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, June 12, 2024, at Lake Glen, 2040 Litchfield Turnpike, Woodbridge, Connecticut. Chair Betkoski presided.

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

Authority: D. Borowy and C. LaMarr

Management: S. Lakshminarayanan 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 voted to approve the minutes of its May 9, 2024, special meeting.

Mr. Triana, the RWA’s Real Estate Manager, provided a historical update of Lake Glen, in Woodbridge, which included:

- Location, size, and accessibility
- Sperry Family settlement and wool processing operations
- Sperry falls and areas of interest

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
May 31	98%	97%	93%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
May 2024	5.44	2.84	3.93
Fiscal YTD (6/1/23 –	64.21	42.33	46.65

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

- Hamden, Preisner property – A2 survey finalized. Inspected property. Closed on property.
- Cheshire, Bis/Bowman property – Phase II investigation found some contaminants above limits. Contacted sellers about addressing the issue before any closing. Reviewed draft survey.

- North Haven, Boy Scout camp – North Haven Land Trust closed on the property on May 15th.
- Cheshire – Corresponded with property owner of 16+/- acres.
- Seymour, Squantuck Rd. (SE 5) – Completed draft of disposition application for review.
- Seymour, Silver Mine Rd. (SE 9) – Corresponded with town staff about what acreage might be available for sale on this parcel.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, Skiff St. house – Discussed process of severing the lot for the house from the remaining acres with Murtha staff.

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.
 - Worked closely with RWA’s Invasive Species Management Technician to plan and implement the first field season of the Landscape Scale Restoration grant.
 - Interviewed four applicants for the Natural Resources Technician internships and worked with HR to offer positions to the two, best candidates.
 - Observed bat mist-netting on the night of May 14th with DEEP’s bat specialist.
 - Organized and participated in planting 250 additional chestnut hybrids inside the Seymour slash wall donated by The American Chestnut Foundation.
 - Released 400 beetles in Bethany (BE 23) as part of a multi-year effort to establish a population of beetles to act as a biocontrol on a hemlock wooly adelgid infestation.
 - NRA met with CAES staff at Prospect Reservoir and Lake Chamberlain to show where dead ash was still on the ground.

Recreation

- Installed two waterbars along trail south of Lake Chamberlain with help of Bethany Horsemen.
- Discussed Bethany Horsemen’s plans to put up signs at Lake Chamberlain.
- Cleared trails at Lake Chamberlain.
- The Water Wagon attended three events.
- Kids fishing derby had 21 attendees.
- Recycled plastic bait was created, packaged, and distributed.
- Applications for two bass tournaments at Lake Saltonstall were submitted to DEEP.

	May		April	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
Permit Holders	4,571	4,972	4,972	5,021

Special Activity Permits

- West Haven Parks & Recreation – (Ms. Margaret Ruggiero and designees) – Fishing Derby, Maltby Lakes, 5/11/24.
- Stephen Trumbo, Ph.D. (Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UConn Waterbury) - Continue research on the behavior and ecology of burying beetles. - Off Route 42 (near the Cheshire-Bethany-Prospect line) just east of traffic light at Rt.69-Rt. 42 juncture (5/15/2024-9/20/2024).
- Trinity Baptist Church (George Hayner)-to walk Lake Chamberlain with international student’s bible study group at Trinity Baptist Church (5/25/24). —Revised date due to weather issues in March.

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Orange, 854 Greenway Rd. (OR 4) – Abutter called and was antagonistic. Sent letter giving them a deadline to remove the encroachment or enter into a license agreement.
 - Woodbridge, 888 Greenway Rd. (OR 4) – Executed license agreement for the encroaching lawn and fence.
 - West Haven, 20 Saw Mill Rd. (WH 8) – Abutter said he would move the dumpsters, but upon inspection, they were still on RWA property. Alerted abutter. He said they would be moved within the week.
 - Hamden, 445 Sherman Ave. (HA 17) – Met with property owner and went over the encroachment.
 - Hamden, 95 Booth Ter. (HA 22 & HA 22A) – Met with abutter about the property line. Discussed options. Exchanged maps.
 - Hamden, Hamden Hall (HA 9A) – Met with President of the school about the appraisals needed to determine the fee for the remainder of the lease.
 - Hamden, 14 Russell St. (HA 6B) – Corresponded with abutter about installing fence along the property line.
 - Branford, 91 Linden Ave. – Met with property owner and showed her location of the watermain. Said we would get back to her about any actions needed.
 - West Haven, Shingle Hill Tanks (WH 7) – Corresponded with Yale’s consultant about their proposed repeater at the tanks.
 - North Haven (NO 10) and North Branford (NB 14 & 14A) – Renewed hay agreements with the Page’s for another 5 years at these two sites.
- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in Bethany, North Branford, East Haven and Branford. The new steam weeder was received and staff from multiple departments attended a training session with the new equipment. Met with CT Invasive Species Outreach Specialist to look at treatment areas in North Branford and Madison.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	49 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	21 acres

- East Haven, Beach Ave. watermain – Consultant started submitting the plans to DEEP.

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- West Haven, Allings Crossing Rd. (WH 6) – UI staff shared plans for removing poles near our property and installing a new pole on the other side of the railroad tracks near the 20” watermain.
- New Haven, Yale Golf Course (NH 1) – Inspected new drainage system coming off the golf course to Authority property.
- Woodbridge, Sperry Rd. – Asked by abutter if we owned the gates that the town used to close off Sperry Rd. Replied that they were not ours and we never operated them. A new gate has been installed farther south on the road.
- East Haven, Rock Rd. SNET easement (EH 2)– Corresponded again with Frontier about their abandoned equipment at Rock Rd.
- Guilford, Lanes Pond Rd. access – Corresponded with surveyor working for new owner of the former Marchegian Club property about the legal status of Lanes Pond Rd.
- Deer hunt - The application deadline was in May. There are 182 hunters: Seymour/Ansonia has 8 hunters, Prospect has 20, Bethany has 20, and North Branford has 134. The contact database was cleaned and culled of non-responsive candidates.
- Boundaries – Checked and remarked boundaries in East Haven, Branford, North Branford and Woodbridge.
- Furnace Pond re-vegetation – Planned and executed planting of woody plants along a stretch of Furnace Pond shoreline that was disturbed.
- Drone inspections – ISMT performed drone missions at Armory St. Pump Station, West River Water Treatment Plant, and Derby Tank.

There were no other land items to report.

Chair Betkoski reported that his term as chair of the Land Use Committee is coming to an end on June 30th and a new chair will be elected at the next meeting in July. Interested candidates should contact him or the board office.

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

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

Peter Betkoski, Chairman