

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

Minutes of June 14, 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, June 14, 2023 at 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut. Chair Betkoski presided.

Committee Members Present: P. Betkoski, P. DeSantis, R. Harvey, M. Horbal, M. Levine, and G. Malloy

Committee Members Absent: B. Eitzer, J. Oslander, and J. Mowat Young

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

Office of Consumer Affairs: Atty. Donofrio

Staff: J. Slubowski

Chair Betkoski called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

Atty. Donofrio, Office of Consumer Affairs, provided a presentation of the Representative Policy Board’s (RPB) Governance, FOIA, and Ethics practices, which included highlights of:

- South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority’s (RWA) Enabling Legislation
- RPB Bylaw requirements for executive sessions, committees, ethics, indemnification, and appointments
- RPB Rules of Practice functions, applications and public hearing requirements
- RPB job descriptions
- Robert’s Rules of Order
- Ethics & Conflict of Interest disclosure rules
- RPB Policy Concerning Management of Confidential Information
- Freedom of Information Act requirements for meetings, executive sessions, and public hearings

On motion made by Mr. Malloy, and seconded by Mr. Horbal, the Committee approved the minutes of its May 10, 2023 meeting.

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
May 31	97%	96%	93%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
May 2023	2.84	2.24	3.91
Fiscal YTD (6/1/22 – 5/31/23)	42.33	46.81	46.50

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

- Prospect, 200 Saddle Ct. – Surveyor set additional pins and the remainder of the property was marked.
- North Haven – Corresponded with property owner of 14+/- acres.
- Contacted numerous land trusts about potential properties to protect in our next fiscal year.
- North Branford, Beech St. and Pumps La. properties (NB 4) – DEEP announced that NBLCT would be the recipient of an OSWLA grant for the two properties. Verified that the disposition application would go before the FMA in June.
- Spring St. PS – Engineering's consultant developed memo to share with the City about the Stiles School property.

Rental houses:

- (nothing to report)

Forestry Update

- Killingworth - East Hammonasset Leaf Screen Thinning, (KI 4) – **95% complete.**
- Hamden - Overstory removal and Tornado Salvage, (HA 36) – **10% complete.**
- Killingworth - N. Chestnut Hill Patch Cuts, (KI 6) – **100% complete. Equipment removed, but some firewood logs still at the landing.**
 - Operations staff improved the access to the northern field off of Downs Rd., Hamden.
 - Planted white pines at Maltby Lakes.
 - Planted native species at the two slash wall harvests.
 - Worked with Engineering staff to improve drainage and establish a parking lot with gate at the Seymour slash wall harvest.
 - Coordinated with Operations staff to mow the Christmas tree field this year.
 - Conducted planning and start-up activities related to the anticipated receipt of the US Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration grant.
 - Started interviewing candidates for Natural Resources Technician positions.

Recreation

- Kids fishing derby was held at Maltby Lakes with 8 attendees.
- Recycled plastic baits were distributed to fishing derby participants.
- Charcoal history hike at Pine Hill had 9 attendees.
- Cleared trails at Sugarloaf and Pine Hill and removed a downed tree across a trail at Maltby Lakes.
- Addressed issues with Vermont vendor for online sales.
- Corresponded with property owner at 59 Rimmon Rd., Seymour about parking and storing materials in the easement area.
- The Water Wagon was brought to four events by recreation staff.

	May		April	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Permit Holders	4,972	5,676	5,021	5,792

Special Activity Permits

- CT DEEP (Andrew Bade, Supervising Fisheries Biologist)-To assess the fish community via night boat electrofishing at Lake Chamberlain and Bethany Lake with a special focus on the presence or absence of Smallmouth Bass. Up to 30 black bass and 30 Bluegill will be retained for fish pathology testing to understand the decline of Smallmouth Bass, Lake Chamberlain 5/8/2023 and Bethany Lake 6/5/2023.

- New Haven Bird Club (Mr. Patrick T. Leahy and designees)-Spring Bird Walk to observe species that nest in the bluebird/tree swallow boxes, Lake Chamberlain (5/15/2024)
- New Haven Bird Club (Mr. Patrick T. Leahy and designees)-Spring Bird Walk to observe species that nest in the bluebird/tree swallow boxes, Lake Dawson (5/29/2024)
- New Haven Bird Club (Mr. Patrick T. Leahy and designees)-Spring Bird Walk to observe species that nest in the bluebird/tree swallow boxes, Lake Watrous (6/12/2024)
- 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 (6/1/2023-10/1/2023)
- UCONN and URI (Alyssa Siegel-Miles and Lisa Tewksbury, and designees) – Release biological agent, moth *Hypena opulenta* to help control the population of invasive plants black and pale swallowwort (*Vincetoxicum nigrum* and *V. rossicum*, Lake Gaillard, Lake Saltonstall (7/18/23-7/18/24) during summer months.

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Orange, 43 Pine Crest Dr. (OR 3) – Contacted abutter again about the license agreement. Abutter said his attorney was reviewing the license agreement.
 - Hamden, New Haven Country Club (HA 5) – Exchanged drafts of the new agreement with NHCC staff.
 - Hamden, 33 Rolling Ridge Rd. (HA 12) – Contacted again about encroachments and offered a license agreement.
 - North Branford, 261 Forest Rd. (NB 17) – Corresponded with abutter about reviewing property line.
 - West Haven, Shingle Hill tanks (WH 7) – Signed confidentiality agreement with Yale. Corresponded with WHPD staff about amending the agreement with them to include Yale in the list of groups who could house equipment in the shelter.
 - Bethany Horsemen – Executed the annual agreement.
 - Trespassing – Recorded instances of trespassing including damage to the lock at Maltby Lake, horseback riders in unapproved locations, and hikers in unapproved locations.
- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in Branford and North Branford. Contractor cleared invasives in North Branford. Hosted invasives walk for CIPWG at the Seymour slash wall harvest to discuss how native species grow without the pressure of deer browsing.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	57.5 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	8.5 acres

- East Haven, Beach Ave. watermain – Juliano supplied updated map for Tighe and Bond for DEEP permit application.
- Regional Conservation Partnership – RCP meeting at LWWTP was attended by about 30 people.
- North Branford Tank (NB 10) – Corresponded with abutter about work planned at the tank.
- USDA agricultural survey – Spoke to USDA about agriculture on Authority property.
- Hamden, Robin Hill Lane – Replied to abutter calling about trees in the river upstream of Clark's Pond.
- Deer hunt – Held lottery. Letters mailed to hunters.

- Orange, Wepawaug Tunnel – Found manhole over the Wepawaug Tunnel on OR 3. Marked in the field and took GPS coordinates.
- ISMT performed multiple drone missions at the Derby tank site.
- Boundaries – Completed remarking property lines in Guilford, North Branford, Bethany and Branford.
- Real Estate staff assisted with maintenance of the pollinator garden at 90 Sargent Dr.

Chair Betkoski stated that next month's meeting would include the election of Committee chair. He informed Committee members of his interest in continuing to serve another year.

Committee members thanked Atty. Donofrio for the refresher presentation. Discussion ensued regarding RWA police, PAL fishing program, science educator, invasive species removal at Furnace Pond, and plantings on RWA properties.

Mr. Horbal reported that RWA's President & CEO, RWA's Board Chair, and the First Selectwoman of Seymour met with Senator Blumenthal at the Seymour Wellfield to discuss recent federal funding for the Seymour Wellfield generator, as well as funding for other critical infrastructure projects.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:55 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy, seconded by Mr. Harvey, and unanimously carried, the committee meeting adjourned.

Peter Betkoski, Chairman