

Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
January 14, 2026

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, January 14, 2026, at the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut. Chair Levine presided.

Committee Members Present: M. Levine(R), P. Betkoski(R), P. DeSantis(R), J. Oslander, and J. Mowat Young

Committee Members Absent: B. Eitzer and G. Malloy

RPB: R. Harvey, N. Campbell(R), T. Clifford(R), J. DiCarlo(R), C. Havrda(R), S. Iacuone(R), and C. Mancini(R)

Authority: C. LaMarr(R) and T. Cort(R)

Management: V. Benni(R), J. Hill, A. Marotti, J. Triana, and K. Watsey

Staff: J. Slubowski

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

On motion made by Mr. Betkoski and seconded by Mr. Oslander, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of its December 10, 2025 regular meeting.

At 5:32 p.m., Ms. Young entered the meeting.

Mr. Watsey, the RWA’s Director of Public Affairs, provided an update on the HazWaste Central 2025 season, which ran from May 17 to October 25. In 2025, the program served 6,588 households, marking a 13.5% decrease from 2024, due to rain on four of the first six collection days. The CESQG program, which allows businesses to dispose of hazardous waste by appointment, saw no requests in 2025 as businesses now directly contact Clean Harbors for disposal needs, generating no revenue for the program. The program services the RWA district customers and has satellite collections in Guilford, Orange, Woodbridge, Meriden, Fairfield, Milford, and Bethany, with Fairfield achieving a record-breaking collection of 820 households. The program operates on a cost-neutral basis, with all expenses covered by participating towns rather than RWA ratepayers. RWA initially fronts operational costs, which are reimbursed semiannually by the towns. Household participation is calculated in increments of 15 gallons or 20 pounds of collected materials.

Committee members discussed approved materials, invoicing, program promotion, and weather restrictions.

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
December 31	64%	75%	72%	None

<u>Rainfall (inches)</u>			
	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
December 31	2.91	5.15	4.14
Fiscal YTD (6/1/24 –	16.56	25.69	27.10

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

- Cheshire – Corresponded with property owner of 20+/- acres.
- Cheshire, former Bis property (CH 5) – Supplied title insurance policy instead of the certificate of title. That was approved by DEEP and the AG. Provided updated map for DEEP to use in their monthly OSWA update.
- Hamden condemnations (HA 5A and HA 7) – DOT said that this matter would be delayed due to the town engineer's comments about the survey.
- Killingworth, Abner Lane Rd. (KI 6) – Attended Killingworth Land Trust board meeting with members of the Madison Rod and Club.
- Killingworth condemnation (KI 8) – Received letters from DOT about taking part of the area and doing work on our property since they found deficiencies in the road/dam. They did not include information on compensation.

Rental houses:

- Woodbridge, 1029 Johnson Rd. – Received schedule of work to be done by the Tarlowski's from them.
- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. – Provided documents to Murtha to amend the deed and easement so they can be used in the public bid.

Forestry Update

- Met with a herpetologist to work out a protection plan for box turtles at the Lake Saltonstall slashwall harvest area.
- Continued to work with CAES researchers to propose diversifying the cutting methods study area to include a crop tree release element.
- Worked with maple tapper for certifying this sugarbush as bird-friendly habitat through a National Audubon program.

Recreation

- Bethany Horsemen reported damage to horse bridge #6. They repaired it.
- Downed tree at Lake Chamberlain was removed.
- Corresponded with Woodbridge Conservation Commission members about the Woodbridge Greenway by the gas line.

	December		November	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Permit Holders	4,813	4,787	4,840	4,838

Special Activity Permits

- New Haven Bird Club (Chris Loscalzo) - Annual Christmas Bird Count survey - Saltonstall, Whitney, Wepawaug, Maltby, Dawson, Glen, Chamberlain, Watrous – (12/20/2025).
- Dr. Chris Loscalzo (at request of CTDEEP) - Annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey - Lakes Saltonstall and Gaillard – (1/10/2026).
- Oxford EMS K9 Division-(Ms. Celeste Robitaille and designees)- Training of Search and Rescue K9 teams to locate lost or missing individuals, Lake Watrous and Lake Dawson (12/30/25-12/30/26).
- Oxford EMS K9 Division-(Ms. Celeste Robitaille and designees)- Training of Search and Rescue K9 teams to locate lost or missing individuals, RT 42 Swamp southeast of RT 42 Bethany; (12/30/25-12/30/26).
- Oxford EMS K9 Division-(Ms. Celeste Robitaille and designees)- Training of Search and Rescue K9 teams to locate lost or missing individuals, 20 Rimmon Road, Seymour (12/30/25-12/30/26).

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Agricultural agreements – Continued correspondence with potential tenant of the Prospect fields. Contacted tenants about mowing the other fields in Guilford.
 - Madison, 702 Summer Hill Rd. (MA 9) – Surveyor restaked the boundary according to his survey. Contacted abutter and he said he was engaging another surveyor. I replied that all evidence points to two straight lines.
 - West Haven, Shingle Hill tanks (WH 7) – Emailed city staff again to find out the status of their review since they have not responded.
- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in Branford and North Branford.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	5 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	2 acres

- Deer hunt – Post-hunt surveys are coming in. Hunters have until the end of January to respond.
- Bethany, Green Haven/Rocky Corner – Reviewed updated agreement from Murtha after their comments.
- Orange, Baldwin Rd. guy wire (OR 4) – Signed revocable license agreement for the guy wire to reach into our property.
- West Haven, 600 Derby Ave. – Yale New Haven Health attorneys asked us to review plans for additional development on the property where we hold conservation easements.
- New Haven, Sachem St. easement – Yale staff said that internal sign-offs have been approved and they expect to provide a red-lined draft soon.
- Boundaries – Checked and marked boundaries in Durham.

There were no other land items to report.

Chair Levine reviewed the upcoming Authority meeting assignment.

The next regular meeting is Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

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At 6:00 p.m., the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

Mark Levine, Chair

(R) – Attended remotely.

UNAPPROVED