

Minutes: The Inland Wetlands Commission. Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting via Zoom teleconferencing technology on Wednesday, July 5, 2023.

Commissioners in attendance: Joan Lakin (Chair), Kirk Shadle (Vice Chair), George Schneider, Michael Stone, Lauren Wholey, Brad Macdowall, Jonathan Clapp

Staff in attendance: Thomas Vocelli (IWC Enforcement Officer), Camile Deans (Commission Clerk), Tim Lee (Assistant Town Attorney for Land-Use)

Chairman Lakin called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Mr. Vocelli took attendance and Ms. Lakin noted the Staff in attendance.

I. Public Comment Session

Chairman Lakin called for public comments.

There were no public comments.

II. Information Session

**Replacement of the Lake Whitney Dam
South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA)**

Lawrence ‘Larry’ Marcik, Professional Engineer with the South-Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA), gave a presentation. He gave an update on the history of the Whitney Dam and he informed the commission that it's one of the oldest dams that the water company owns. It was built in 1860 and completed in 1861. There was an upgrade in 1917 and an improvement to the spillway. They raised the structure 4 feet to add more water and they widened it to 250 feet. The Dam is 160 years old and the size is 43 feet high and 250 feet wide. The RWA would like to upgrade the dam to today's standards.

Mr. Marcik explained that the most economical approach would be to build the replacement dam downstream in front of the existing Dam. He said that this method has been done many times. He also explained that the Regional Water Authority (RWA) is working to make sure that environmental impacts are minimized in any event.

The RWA is also working on an alternative design to build upstream in a manner that would enable them to preserve the historic Dam structure as is. This upstream approach has been reviewed with engineers and it would be safe but more costly. He also pointed out that they will be installing temporary structures to keep service going. Mr. Marcik summarized that the purpose of the upgrade is to make the Dam stronger, reduce seepage, enhance the spillway and create a larger capacity.

Chairman Lakin asked how long the timeline is. Mr. Marcik informed her that this is a 2 ½ year project.

Mr. Vocelli asked who will ultimately make the decision on which design is chosen. Mr. Marcik said he thinks the goal is to get all the necessary information for each design, but any recommendation would be subject to review by the CEO and possibly by the Representative Policy Board.

Commissioner Maccowall asked if they are assessing the engineering firms on their actual deliverability and if there is a way to look back and measure the timeline and budget, Mr. Marcik informed him that they will take an overview which deals with contractors and numbers to make that evaluation.

Commissioner Wholey asked if during the process they will be anticipating much removal of sediments. Mr. Marcik said there would not be any plans for dredging, so there will be no sediment removal as part of this project.

Commissioner Schneider asked about assessment forms for engineers and contractors and if they will be using one. Mr. Marcik said he is not aware of such a form. He also said they had to go through a selection process to pick consultants, using several methods like interviews, a checklist, data collection, and so forth.

Under State law a project of this type is regulated by CT DEEP rather than by the local inland wetlands agency, but Mr. Marcik said that the RWA will continue to update the commission.

III. Other Business

A. Review of June 7th, 2023 Meeting Minutes

There was a correction to the June 7th minutes: page 2, second-to-last paragraph should be 'Diversion barrier is temporary'.

Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Commissioner Wholey seconded. Commissioner Clapp abstained, and all other commissioners present and voting were in favor.

B. Storm Water Catch Basin

There was no report

C. Site Inspections

None are scheduled.

D. Adjournment

Chairman Lakin asked for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Wholey made the motion. It was seconded and all commissioners present and voting were in favor.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Camile Deans Commission Clerk