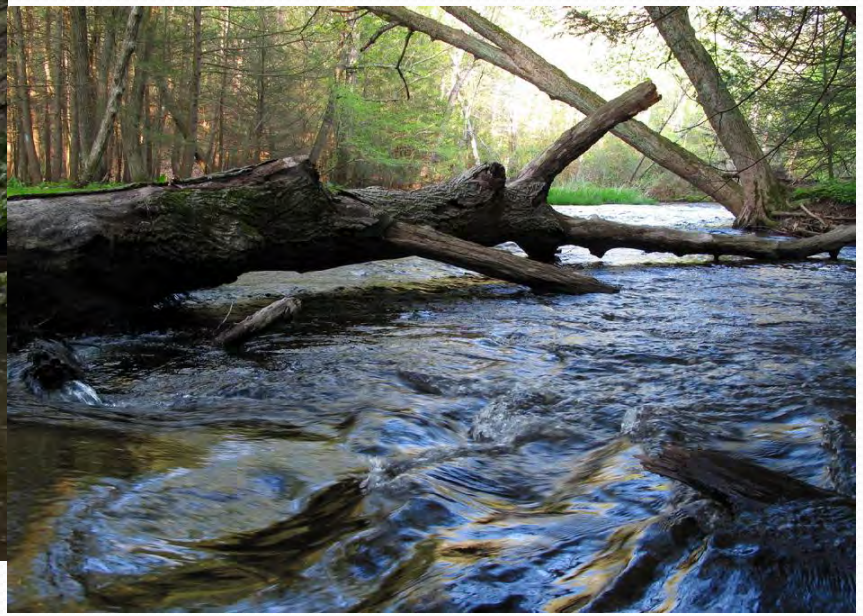
Be More Proactive

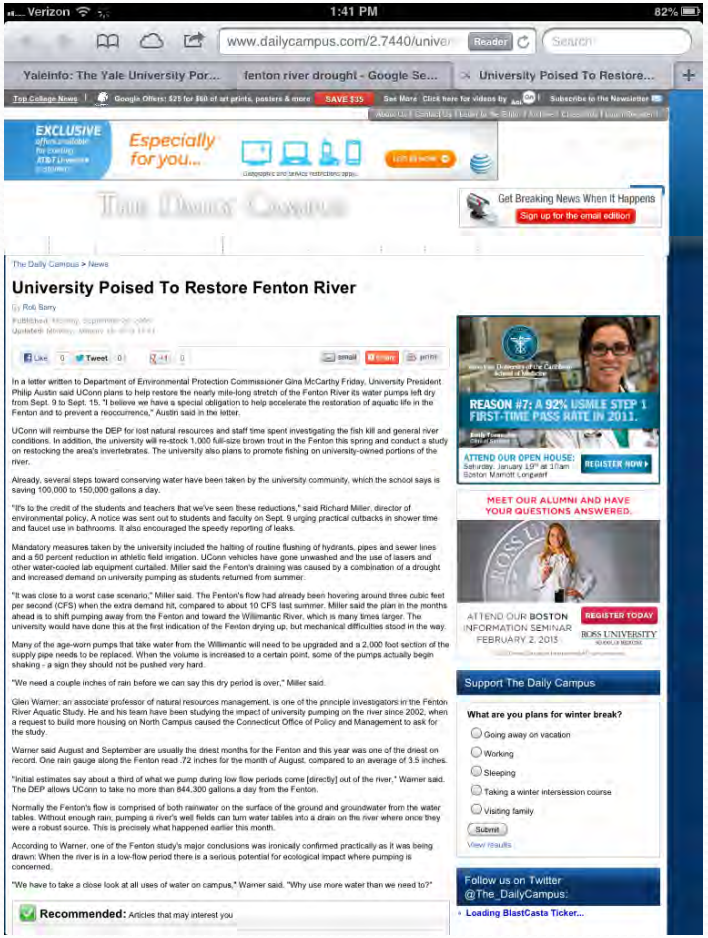
Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents

Long history working with the DEEP

Rivers…Drought…Regulations



Bad News Travels Fast



Lobbyists, Coalitions & Engaged Members

Michael Dugan

Connecticut State Golf Assoc.

CSGA

Let’s hope good news travels faster.

Despite plentiful water, states draft river rules

Tuesday, September 7, 2010 2:10 AM EDT

HARTFORD (AP) — Water is plentiful in New England, but that's not stopping several states from drafting regulations to ensure it's available despite droughts, heat spells and development pressures.

Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island rules will regulate so-called stream flows governing how water utilities and businesses can tap into waterways — while trying to allay environmentalists' concerns over fish habitats and recreation. Maine has had regulations in force for three years.

"Our state has enough water falling on it that, on paper, there should be enough water for all the users," said Connecticut Rep. Mary Mushinsky, who backed legislation calling for regulations. "Our system should be sustainable but we've never resolved conflicts between users in such a way that it's predictable or manageable."

A long-running problem was resolved just this summer, more than 20 years after Waterbury began diverting water from the Shepaug River for municipal use without releasing surplus water from its reservoir, as demanded by environmentalists.

Environmentalists alarmed by the low levels of the Shepaug sued Waterbury in the late 1990s and forced state lawmakers to consider new stream-flow rules. Releases began this summer under a new plan, keeping the river's water levels at acceptable levels, said Margaret Miner, executive director of Rivers Alliance of Connecticut.

Even after the legislature ordered the DEP to come up with new regulations, another river ran dry. That happened when the University of Connecticut pumped from an adjacent well field that tapped the Fenton River, resulting in a fish kill.

More Good Press

Deal reached on water regulations

Vinti Singh, Staff Writer
Published 10:55 p.m., Sunday, October 23, 2011

We may be taking too much water from our state's rivers and streams and endangering fish populations, Connecticut environmentalists have been warning for years. The solution, they say, is to regulate how much water can be used. But industry experts said if the rules are too strict, they would be bad for business and for public health.

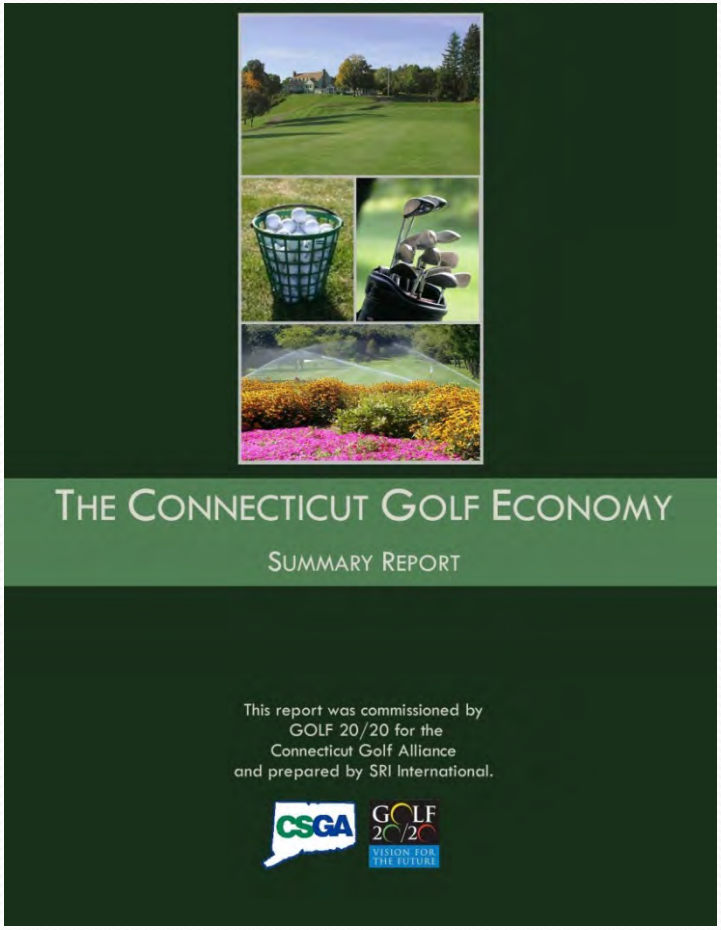
After intense negotiations, the two sides have reached a compromise and are confident state lawmakers will pass new regulations next month.

"I believe this is the most forward-looking stream-flow management proposal in new England and possibly in the nation," Margaret Miner, executive director of Rivers Alliance, a nonprofit organization that advocates to protect the state's waterways, said. "This is a very significant step forward in managing water both for the environment and supply."

The proposed regulations would require water companies to collect less water in their reservoirs and release more from dams back into rivers and streams, especially in the warmer months when water levels naturally tend to dip. In exchange, the water companies would be allowed to retain more water in the late winter and early spring, when water levels tend to be at their highest.

"We'd like to see more water released (from dams) during all times of the year, but this is a major improvement over the status quo," said David Sutherland, director of government relations for The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut.

The Business of Golf



Another Day Testifying in Hartford

Written Testimony of

Scott Ramsay, Legislative Chair

Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents

SB 254, An Act Restricting the Application of Fertilizers that Contain Phosphate

Environment Committee

March 7, 2012

Good morning Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, Senator Roraback, Representative Chapin and the members of the Environment Committee. My name is Scott Ramsay, I'm the Legislative Chair of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents. I'm here today to testify on SB 254, An Act Restricting the Application of Fertilizers that Contain Phosphate. Phosphorous is an essential, organic element necessary for plant growth. Used properly it is essential for a healthy turf environment. Restricting the use of phosphorous would create many consequences, both known and unknown. I respectfully request that golf turf be exempt from these restrictions.

Today's turf managers are far more aware of the potential impact of the improper use of Phosphorous than compared to only a few years ago. Technology and information has changed the way we as professional turf managers look at our applications to turf. We can more accurately measure, test and research the interactions between our turf and the adjacent environment.

Phosphorous Regulation

Substitute Senate Bill No. 440

Public Act No. 12-155

AN ACT CONCERNING PHOSPHOROUS REDUCTION IN STATE WATERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or the commissioner's designee and the chief elected officials of the cities of Danbury, Meriden and Waterbury and the towns of Cheshire, Southington and Wallingford, and the chief elected official of any other municipality impacted by the state-wide strategy to reduce phosphorus, or such chief elected officials' designees, shall collaboratively evaluate and make recommendations regarding a state-wide strategy to reduce phosphorus loading in inland nontidal waters in order to comply with standards established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Such evaluation and recommendations shall include (1) a state-wide response to address phosphorus nonpoint source pollution, (2) approaches for municipalities to use in order to comply with standards established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for phosphorus, including guidance for treatment and potential plant upgrades, and (3) the proper scientific methods by which to measure current phosphorous levels in inland nontidal waters and to make future projections of phosphorous levels in such waters.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2013*) (a) For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Established lawn" means any area of ground that is covered with any species of grass for two or more growing seasons and that is customarily kept mowed;

(2) "Golf course" means an area solely designated for the play or practice of the game of golf, including, but not limited to, surrounding grounds, trees and ornamental beds; and

(3) "Impervious surface" means any structure, surface or improvement that reduces or prevents absorption of stormwater into land, including, but not limited to, porous paving, paver blocks, gravel, crushed stone, decks, patios and elevated structures.

(b) Notwithstanding chapter 427a of the general statutes, no person shall apply fertilizer, as defined in section 22-111b of the general statutes, any soil amendment, as defined in section 22-111aa of the

Phosphorous Exemption

general statutes, or any compost that contains phosphate to an established lawn, except when: (1) A soil testing method approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture and performed within the previous two years indicates the soil is lacking in phosphorus and fertilizer, soil amendments or compost containing phosphate is needed for the growth of such lawn, or (2) such fertilizer, soil amendment or compost containing phosphate is used for establishing new grass or repairing such lawn with seed or sod.

(c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to: (1) Property classified as agricultural land, as defined in section 22-26bb of the general statutes, or (2) a golf course.

(d) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, no person shall apply any fertilizer, as defined in section 22-111b of the general statutes, soil amendment, as defined in section 22-111aa of the general statutes, or compost that contains phosphate to any lawn during the period beginning December first and ending March fifteenth of the following year.

(e) Notwithstanding chapters 427a and 441 of the general statutes and subsections (b) and (d) of

Reframe the Conversation

Big Sprinklers

Jobs…Business…Revenue

Press Release

Connecticut Golf Alliance

Connecticut Golf Industry Delivers Economic Impact of $1.1 Billion, Employs 11,570 with Total Wage Income of $336 Million

June: 22, 2010—The Connecticut Golf Alliance announced the golf industry in the state comprised of 185 small businesses and the Travelers Championship delivers an annual economic impact of $1.1 Billion.

The study completed by SRI International identified the following elements:

	Direct Impact	Indirect & Induced	Total Impact	Total Jobs	Total Wage Income
	($ M)		($ M)		($ M)
Golf Facility Operations	$425.6	----------	$783.7	8,830	$250.5
Golf Course Capital Improvements	$59.8		$8.1	61	$2.6
Golfer Supplies	$70.5		$134.3	933	$37.1
Tournaments & Associations	$14.0		$28.0	399	$10.3
Real Estate	$20.9		$24.4	182	$7.7
Hospitality / Tourism	$46.9		$89.7	1,165	$28.4
Total	$637.7		$1068.2	11,570	$336.6

The study further reveals the Golf Industry is comparable to revenues generated by other key industries in the state, such as accounting and tax preparation ($1.5

Thanks To All…
We Will Continue To Evangelize