

**Minutes of the Watershed Agricultural Council Meeting**  
December 20, 2010

**I. Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m.**

Directors Present:

Fred Huneke	Darby Hartwell
John Riedl	Tom Donnelly
Barbara Howard	Steve Reed
Tom Hutson	John Verhoeven
William Coleman	Richard Giles
Sally Fairbairn	Dave Post
Joe Eisele	John Schwartz, NYC DEP

Directors Absent:

David Cammer Ken Smith

Others Present:

Craig Cashman	Thomas Artale
Cheryl Marion	Jeff Graff

Fred informed the Directors that Dave Cammer has had a heart attack and has required some surgery. He expects to be home by the end of the week.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion to approve the minutes of the November 23, 2010 WAC meeting.**

**Motion: Joe Eisele**

**Second: John Riedl**

**Approved**

**III. Executive Director Reports – Craig Cashman**

**A. Operational Report**

- We will begin the process of the negotiation for the next Easement Program contract in January. The incorporation of the “unfunded liability for stewardship” will be at the center of discussion. Other items will be voting structure and the water supply permit and side agreement items. The contract will begin 9/12/12.

- WAC contract for Ag, Forestry, and Farm to Market issues – we will begin these discussions with the DEP to establish a framework and time-line for completion of a 5-year contract to begin November 2012. The goal being to ensure that contract language will be similar between both Easement and the new WAC contract for ease of administration and delivery.
- SWCD contract: We have wrapped up a contract with SWCD for 22 months to coincide with the impending DEP contract.
- The Water Supply Permit should be completed this week. The side agreement will coincide with this process. It appears at this point all parties are in agreement with both the WSP and the Side Agreement. WAC and DEP will work together to incorporate all requirements over the next several months.
- NYCON will be conducting further Strategic Assessment with the staff in January/February and the Board at the Directors Only meeting.

#### **B. Program Reports/Approvals**

- The Action Staff which consists of Board members, DEP, Ag staff, and WAP partners are in the process of developing guidelines for committee and staff to follow so that we can effectively administer programs and provide oversight in the future.
- The web page will go live at the end of the month. Tara will be adding and deleting content after the launch date and key staff will have the ability to add to individual programs to continuously monitor and update information throughout the year.
- Human Resources – Scott Boyce has been hired as the Engineer Specialist for the EoH office, John Van Benschoten as the Engineer Specialist for the Walton office, and interviews will occur after the first of the year for the Sr. Admin. Asst. position for the Ag Program. The HR audit continues.
- Easement – December 2010 Landowner Purchase and Sales Contracts  
The Easement Committee authorized the execution of a Purchase and Sales contract for \$1550 per acre on a 70 +/- acre farm property in the Cannonsville Basin at the December 2, 2010 Easement Committee meeting. The total purchase price will be approximately \$108,500.

#### **IV. Chair's Report – Fred Huneke**

##### **A. Endowment Committee Update:**

WAC needs to determine which committees are responsible for the various aspects of the endowment. The real function of the Endowment Committee is to manage the Trustee. Fred presented the motion passed in the December Endowment meeting which will serve as guidance/deadlines for the Investment policy:

**Motion to present the Stewardship Endowment Fund Investment Policy Draft dated 12/20/10 to the Council at its meeting on December 21, 2010. Any additional comments before the final vote should be given to the Chair or Executive Director by January 6, 2011. A final draft of the document will be mailed January 14, 2011 in the WAC meeting packets. A final vote of this policy shall be taken at the Council meeting on January 25, 2011.**

**B. Confirmation of Resolution Phone vote taken December 9<sup>th</sup>  
Motion: After final review by Dale Hughes, Esq. and the NYC DEP the Executive Committee recommends to the WAC Directors signing the Resolution in Support of the Side Agreement dated December 7, 2010 which includes Option 2 and the transparency policy distributed as exhibit 3 attachment to the Side Agreement.  
Motion: Joe Eisele  
Second: Tom Hutson  
Abstained: John Schwartz  
Approved**

**C. Recognition of Departing Board Members  
Fred very graciously thanked Bill Coleman and Dave Post for their many years on the Council and presented each of them with a plaque.**

**The Directors Only meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2011.**

**V. Governance Committee – John Verhoeven  
Motion: The Governance Committee is presenting the following slate of Directors to serve on the Council from January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2012: Joe Eisele, Sally Fairbairn, Richard Giles, Fred Huneke, Ken Smith, John Verhoeven, and Chris DiBenedetto.  
Motion: John Verhoeven  
Second: Steve Reed  
Approved  
With no additional nominations from the floor it was agreed that this body be elected as Directors for the next term.**

**Motion to approve the marked changes in the Director Reimbursement Policy effective January 1, 2011  
Motion: Bill Coleman  
Second: Dave Post  
Abstained: John Schwartz  
Approved**

**Motion to approve the marked changes in the Non-Director Committee member Reimbursement Policy.  
Motion: John Verhoeven  
Second: Sally Fairbairn  
Abstained: John Schwartz  
Approved**

**Motion: On the recommendation of the Governance Committee Fred Huneke shall serve as Chair and Dave Cammer as Vice Chair until election of officers is held at the January 25, 2011 Council meeting.  
Second: Steve Reed  
Approved**

**Motion: On the recommendation of the Governance Committee John Riedl will be named to fill the vacated position of WAC Treasurer until the election of officers is held at the Council meeting on January 25, 2011.  
Second: Bill Coleman  
Approved**

At the Governance meeting today the committee voted to present the slate of officers as follows: Chair – Fred Huneke, Vice-Chair – Dave Cammer, Treasurer – John Riedl. They will also be nominating for Executive Committee members at large Tom Donnelly, and Barbara Howard.

**VI. Finance Committee – Bill Coleman and Thomas Artale**

- **Motion to accept the October Financial Statement on the recommendation of the Finance Committee.  
Second: Darby Hartwell  
Approved**
- **Motion to adopt the revised 2011 budget  
Motion: Bill Coleman  
Second: Tom Donnelly  
Approved**

**VII. DEP Report – John Schwartz**

John reported that the various DEP programs in the Kingston office met with the DEP Commissioner for two hours to give him an overview of the various watershed programs. Ed Blouin has completed the annual CREP report. John and Ed have submitted the large annual WAP report. Thank you to all who assisted with the evaluation report.

**VIII. Other**

Tom Hutson reported on the Precision Feed meeting held which he attended as the only active dairy farmer presently on the Council. There has been difficulty with funding for the project from the Army Corp of Engineers. The workload for this program has fallen behind because of certification that has not been approved by the NYS DEC. Tom Snow, NYS DEC, is being encouraged to give certification to move funding approval to the Army Corp. Craig offered to call Paul Cerosaletti, DC CCE. John Schwartz stated that Precision Feeding is actually one of the FAD deliverables and the DEP has provided a letter of support.

John Riedl asked that the unfunded liability of easements concern not be allowed to slip to the side and not be addressed. Craig stated he intends to discuss with

DEP where they are on this subject as the contract negotiations continue. Craig also inquired as to whether the Council still would like the DEP Commissioner to attend a Council meeting and the response from the Directors was affirmative.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.