

Watershed Agricultural Council

Agriculture ♦ Forestry ♦ Conservation Easements ♦ Economic Initiatives

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Minutes of the Watershed Agricultural Council Meeting

June 28, 2011

I. Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Directors Present:

Fred Huneke	Darby Hartwell
John Riedl	Tom Donnelly
Steve Reed	David Cammer
Tom Hutson	Richard Giles
Chris DiBenedetto	Sally Fairbairn
Joe Eisele	John Verhoeven
Kenneth Smith	

Directors Absent:

John Schwartz, NYC DEP
Barbara Howard

Others Present:

Craig Cashman	Amy Hawk
Thomas Artale	

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2011 WAC meeting.

Motion: Ken Smith

Second: Tom Hutson

Approved

III. Executive Director Report – Craig Cashman

A. FY12 Workplans

Motion to approve the Organizational Workplans as presented.

Motion: Dave Cammer

Second: Steve Reed

Approved

Craig reported that recently a deliverable of the Communications and Outreach department was not completed on time. He submitted a letter to DEP explaining the missed deliverable and the new timeline for completion as well as detailing his plan to ensure timely completion of this deliverable in the future.

IV. Chair's Report – Fred Huneke

Fred distributed his Chair's Report to the Council, there was brief discussion.

V. Finance Committee – John Riedl and Thomas Artale

A. April Financials

Motion to accept the April Financial Statement on the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

Motion: John Riedl

Second: Joe Eisele

Approved

B. FY 12 Budget

Motion to approve the FY12 Budget as presented.

Motion: John Riedl

Second: Tom Hutson

Approved

Thomas reminded Council Members to submit their reimbursement forms for FY11 by July 15, 2011.

VI. Executive Session

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations.

Motion: Joe Eisele

Second: Steve Reed

Approved

Motion to come out of Executive Session.

Motion: John Riedl

Second: Steve Reed

Approved

Motion to accept the Board recommended positions on the NYC DEP stewardship proposal as outlined below:

- 1. All attachments to the Forestry and Agriculture Conservation Easement contract will be completed and agreed upon prior to the Board ratifying a contract.**
- 2. Ample time will be given to the Board of Directors to effectively deliberate contract language.**
- 3. DEP's proposal for the Endowment Fund must include the CPI beyond 2021 and account for future contracts that include more acreage as well as the endowment must match the budget at 2038 in order for WAC to be financially independently to operate the program.**
- 4. DEP must provide stewardship contracts to WAC through 2038 that address all costs associated with operations.**

5. DEP has indicated that they own the problem and the solution for the stewardship endowment. Unanimous Consent removed WAC's political independence/autonomy and changed our governance structure. As a result WAC cannot be responsible for fundraising under that requirement.
6. DEP and WAC will address a solution for catastrophic legal protection/funding to WAC beyond 2038.
7. These items will be embodied in a contract prior to signing the 29 million dollar Forestry and Agriculture Conservation Easement program agreement.

Motion: Tom Donnelly

Second: Joe Eisele

Approved

VII. Governance Committee – John Verhoeven

John reported that NYCON recently pointed out that the Council is required to have a Secretary.

Motion to appoint Dave Cammer, Vice Chair as Vice Chair/Secretary pending the modification of the By-Laws.

Motion: John Verhoeven

Second: Richard Giles

Approved

*** Dave Cammer abstained**

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.