

Watershed Agricultural Council

Agriculture ♦ Forestry ♦ Conservation Easements ♦ Economic Initiatives

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Minutes of the Watershed Agricultural Council Meeting

November 22, 2011

I. Meeting called to order at 1:07 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	John Schwartz, NYC DEP

Directors Absent:

Barbara Howard

Others Present:

Craig Cashman	Amy Hawk
Thomas Artale	Tom Hilson

Fred asked for any modifications to the Agenda. None were requested.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2011 WAC meeting.

Motion: Chris DiBenedetto

Second: Joe Eisele

Approved

III. Finance Training – Budget – Thomas Artale

Thomas did a presentation on the format of WAC's Budget. This is the first of training sessions Thomas and John Riedl will be providing to the Council in the upcoming months.

IV. Executive Director Report – Craig Cashman

Craig distributed his monthly report in a new format. This format provides the highlights of his Operational and Programmatic Report as well as a section specifically pertaining to the Strategic Plan. He will be providing the council with monthly updates on progress made toward the goals of the Strategic Plan.

Craig distributed new copies of WAC's Strategic Plan in a final format, as available on WAC's website.

V. Chair's Report – Fred Huneke

A. Waiver of 10-day Requirement

Motion to waive the 10 day rule for notification of the December WAC Board meeting and the packet to be mailed due to the Holiday.

Motion: Steve Fleming

Second: Joe Eisele

Approved

B. Director's Only Meeting

Fred reported that the WAC Directors' Only Meeting will be held January 20, 2012. More details to follow. There will be further discussion at the Directors' Only Meeting on WAC's position on Gas Fracking. Other items on the agenda will include the definition and requirements of 'at-large' Council Directors and further discussion on advocacy and lobbying requirements and how they pertain specifically to WAC.

C. Endowment Committee

Fred stated that a Joint Finance/Endowment Committee meeting will be held December 15, 2011 at 1:30 at the WAC Hamden Office.

D. Program Input from Participants and General Public Policy

Fred distributed a modified WAC – General Policy, Program Input from Participants and General Public Policy. It was determined, after the discussion at the October Council Meeting, that the details regarding privilege of the floor at WAC meetings could be addressed and included in this existing WAC General Policy. The Executive Committee worked to modify the policy. There was lengthy discussion on this proposal, including requesting more detail on what the basis of an approval/denial would be and a concern that all parties that request the opportunity to present at any meeting be treated equally.

Motion to approve as a first reading the modified WAC – General Policy entitled Program Input from Participants and General Public.

Motion: Joe Eisele

Second: Dave Cammer

Approved

VI. Governance Committee – John Verhoeven

John reported that the Governance committee has met twice since the October meeting, the Committee is working on recruiting new Council Members. He intends to have two new members to propose at the December Council meeting.

VII. Finance Committee – John Riedl and Thomas Artale

A. August Financials

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

Motion: John Riedl

Second: Steve Reed

Approved

B. Easement Program Contracts

Included in the monthly packets to the Council was a spreadsheet detailing that the Easement Program has recently entered into a Purchase and Sales Agreement for a farm located in the Cannonsville Basin for an approximate amount of \$225,000.00

C. Mid-Year Budget Revision

The Mid-year Budget Revision was distributed in the monthly packets with a cover memo highlighting the changes. Thomas reviewed the cover memo and changes in great detail. He does not anticipate any additional changes before the December meeting at which time the Budget will be presented to the council for approval.

VIII. DEP Report

John Schwartz reported that the DEP has completed and published on their website the comprehensive forest management plan covers all of DEP owned forest land. This was a FAD Deliverable.

IX. Executive Session

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations.

Motion: John Verhoeven

Second: Steve Reed

Approved

Motion to come out of Executive Session.

Motion: Chris DiBenedetto

Second: Tom Hutson

Approved

Motion authorizing Fred to execute the amendment to the current Easement Program Contract to incorporate the side agreement.

Motion: John Verhoeven

Second: Kenneth Smith

Approved

Motion authorizing Craig and Fred to proceed with the negotiations regarding the Stewardship Endowment Fund as illustrated to the Council.

Motion: Kenneth Smith

Second: Sally Fairbairn

Approved

Opposed by Tom Donnelly

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.