

Watershed Agricultural Council

Agriculture ♦ Forestry ♦ Conservation Easements ♦ Economic Initiatives

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Minutes of the Watershed Agricultural Council Meeting

October 25, 2011

I. Meeting called to order at 1:55 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
John Schwartz, NYC DEP	

Directors Absent:

Barbara Howard	Kenneth Smith
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Others Present:

Craig Cashman	Amy Hawk
Thomas Artale	Brian LaTourette
Daniel Flaherty	Tom Pavlesich
Jeff Graff	Elaine Poulin
Larry Hulle	Carrie Davis
Seth Hersh	Joel Franca
Tom Hilson	

Fred asked for any modifications to the Agenda. None were requested. He welcomed Joel Franc, a visitor from France. Joel is vice president of public relations for the French national, nonprofit water association, ASTE. His visit is aimed toward gaining a perspective on public-private partnerships demonstrated by the NYC watershed management model.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2011 WAC meeting.

Motion: Tom Hutson

Second: Dave Cammer

Approved

III. Executive Director Report – Craig Cashman

A. Program Updates

Program Managers gave individual program reports – see Committee minutes for details.

IV. Presentation of the WAC FY11 Audit – Toski, Schaefer & Company, PC

The FY11 Audit was distributed to the Council in the monthly packets. The audit was reviewed in great detail and Joe Ryndak from Toski, Schaefer & Company, PC reported that it was a clean audit. The Council thanked Thomas and the Finance Staff for their work.

Motion to approve the WAC Audit for fiscal year 2010-2011.

Motion: John Riedl

Second: John Verhoeven

Approved

V. Chair's Report – Fred Huneke

A. Annual Forestry Dinner

Fred reminded everyone about the Annual Forestry Dinner to be held November 4th, and encouraged all to attend.

B. WAC Position on Gas Fracking

Fred and Craig have discussed at length and have decided to postpone further discussion on this issue until the Director's Only meeting in January.

C. Privilege of the Floor Protocol

Fred distributed draft policy and guidelines to the Council. As a result of recent meetings it was determined that an updated policy and guidelines are necessary. He asked the members to review for discussion at the November Council meeting. Fred will compare the policy and guidelines to the Transparency Policy and Side Agreement to ensure consistency.

VI. Governance Committee – John Verhoeven

Motion to approve as a second reading the marked changes as presented to the By-Laws Article II Council Directors.

Motion: John Verhoeven

Second: Steve Reed

Approved

Motion to approve as a second reading the marked changes as presented to the By-Laws Article III Offices and Duties.

Motion: John Verhoeven

Second: Richard Giles

Approved

John reported that he will be scheduling a meeting in November of the Governance Committee.

**VII. Finance Committee – John Riedl and Thomas Artale
August Financials**

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

Motion: John Riedl

Second: Dave Cammer

Approved

Motion to approve the 990 form for 2010-2011 as presented.

Motion: John Riedl

Second: Tom Hutson

Approved

VIII. DEP Report

Nothing to report at this time.

IX. Other

Council members expressed thanks to Fred for forwarding the DEP Pipeline publication.

It was stated that as a result of the training earlier today on Lobbying, more discussion needs to be had on the topic of lobbying, and to determine if WAC needs to register with the State or City.

X. Executive Session

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations.

Motion: Joe Eisele

Second: John Verhoeven

Approved

Motion to come out of Executive Session.

Motion: Tom Hutson

Second: Chris DiBenedetto

Approved

Motion to give Craig Cashman and Fred Huneke the authority to move forward presenting the Catastrophic Legal Defense Proposal as presented by Craig.

Motion: Darby Hartwell

Second: Tom Hutson

Opposed: Tom Donnelly

Richard Giles

Approved

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.