

Minutes of the Watershed Agricultural Council Meeting
September 28, 2010

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

Directors Present:

David Cammer	Fred Huneke
John Riedl	Tom Donnelly
Barbara Howard	Steve Reed
Tom Hutson	John Verhoeven
William Coleman	Richard Giles
Ken Smith	Darby Hartwell
Joe Eisele	John Schwartz, NYC DEP

Directors Absent:

Dave Post	Sally Fairbairn
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Others Present:

Craig Cashman	Thomas Artale
Cheryl Marion	Jeff Graff

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2010 WAC meeting.

Motion: Tom Hutson

Second: Tom Donnelly

Approved

The Directors had been informed at the end of last week that Commissioner Holloway was not going to be able to attend this meeting.

III. Executive Director Reports – Craig Cashman

- Craig reported that Commissioner Holloway hopes to be in attendance at the October Board meeting.

- **Data Base Presentation:** Seth provided the Board with a presentation that gave them a greater understanding of the accomplishments to date of the IT project since the discontinuation of the PAR contract in April.

Operational Reports:

- **Easement Contract Negotiations/Issues:** WAC has agreed that until we have concluded a meeting with the Commissioner of DEP we will not move forward with contract discussion that will center on the unfunded liability of stewardship in perpetuity.
- **SWCD Contract:** We are currently looking to finalize the contract with SWCD for 22 months to coincide with a long term DEP contract.
- **Water Supply Permit/Recommendations:** Discussions around

conditions attached to the Water Supply permit should be completed at the end of this month. The regulators requested from WAC any recommendations that we feel should be part of the condition of the water supply permit. WAC recommended: Funding of Stewardship Liability. Substantially Implemented to Prioritization, and increase in Nutrient Management Credits.

- **DSA Report:** Organizational Development and Executive Coaching awarded to NYCON formerly NYSCAA. NYCON met with the Executive Committee, and is developing a more formal plan of action to be submitted. Human Resources Audit will begin in October.
- **Strategic Planning:** NYCON will be conducting a Strategic Assessment with the Advisory Committee on October 6th.

Program Reports:

- **Substantially Implemented (SI):** WAP has achieved a significant milestone as required by the July 2007 Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD): as of September 30, 2010, at least 90% of all West of Hudson large farms have met the definition of “substantially implemented” at least once.
- **Human Resources:** Cheryl reported the Easement Conservation Specialist, Josh Gorman had begun work. The Conservation Planner position for the WAP is now being advertised and resumes are arriving.

IV. Chair’s Report – Fred Huneke

- **WAC Advisory Committee:** will meet October 6, 2010 at the Agro-Forestry Center in Acra. The first half of the meeting will be allotted to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) for the presentation of their evaluation of this milestone, 300 farms “Substantially Implemented”. In addition, the Agriculture Program staff will present a recommended next step focusing on a program directed more on prioritization of water quality.

The second half of the day will be focused on the development of the Watershed Agriculture’s five year strategic plan. We have chosen NYCON to lead our strategic planning process and we hope to capture input from the Advisory Committee.

- **Endowment Committee:**
Motion to accept the recommendation of the Stewardship Endowment Committee to make the following change in the Stewardship Endowment Fund: The Trustee shall distribute and disburse the net income of the Trust at ~~least quarterly to the discretion of~~ the Board of Directors of the Grantor to be used solely for the purposes set forth herein.

Second: Barbara Howard

Approved

The Investment Policy will determine how invested monies will be allocated. The Endowment Committee hopes to bring the policy to the

Directors for a vote in October. The Trustee is in place. Toski and Schaefer are applying for the 501c3 which should take 6-8 weeks. By the end of November everything should be in place with the hope of putting in the first amount in December. This committee would like to have members who have more expertise in the investment field.

V. Finance Committee – Dave Cammer and Thomas Artale

- The July Financials were distributed in the monthly packets.

Motion to accept the July Financial Statement on the recommendation of the Finance Committee

Second: Joe Eisele

Approved

VI. DEP Report – John Schwartz

- John spoke of how pleased he and DEP are that we have reached substantially implemented. He reminded all the Directors that the Filtration Avoidance Determination stated that WAC shall “maintain” substantially implemented not just “reach” it. John also congratulated Thomas and the Finance Department for closing out WACO8R and WAC08 in record time.
- John stated work has begun on the new Farm Bill and the Directors may want to determine how to position WAC – should the watershed be specifically listed in the Farm Bill etc.

VII. Governance Committee – John Verhoeven

- John requested that any Board Director that is interested or willing to serve as an officer on the WAC Board or as a member of the Executive Committee contact either himself or a Governance Committee member.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 2:30 p.m.

Motion: Bill Coleman

Second: Joe Eisele

Approved

Motion to come out of Executive Session at 3:05 p.m.

Motion: Dave Cammer

Second: Richard Giles

Approved

Adjourned at 3:06 p.m.