

Watershed Agricultural Council

Agriculture ♦ Forestry ♦ Conservation Easements ♦ Economic Viability

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Minutes of the Watershed Agricultural Council Meeting October 27, 2015

I. Meeting called to order at 6:45 pm.

Directors Present:

Dave Cammer
Jason Coleman
Sally Fairbairn
Wayland Gladstone
Fred Huneke
Patrick Rider
Ken Smith

John Verhoeven
Chris DiBenedetto
Richard Giles
Karl Gockel
Steve Reed
John Riedl
John Schwartz, NYC DEP


Richard Giles, Secretary


Date

Directors Absent:

Jennifer Grossman
Tom Hutson

Larry Burgin

Others Present:

Craig Cashman
Amy Faulkner
Heather Magnan
Elaine Poulin
John Jackson
Brian LaTourette
Tom Pavlesich

Thomas Artale
Carrie Davis
Kristan Morley
Larry Hulle
Rob Birdsall
Ryan Naatz
Josh Gorman

Sally Fairbairn asked for any modifications to the Agenda, none were requested.

II. Approval of September 22, 2015 Minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes of the September 22, 2015 meeting as written.

Motion: Bud Gladstone

Second: Dave Cammer

Approved

III. Executive Director Report - Craig Cashman

A. Program Report

Program Managers were present and gave reports. Kristan encouraged everyone to visit purecatskillsmarketplace.com to do some shopping. During the Agricultural Program report Larry and Bud Gladstone updated the Council on the status of the Bevins property, and specifically the ongoing safety concerns with the handling of the manure. Sally read to the group a draft letter that the Agricultural Committee approved sending out to the Bevins at the last meeting. The letter was discussed at length, and it was requested that WAC have our attorney review the letter prior to sending it out.

Upon the recommendation of the Agricultural Program Committee, motion to approve the mailing of a termination letter to Dennis Bevins effective 11/26/15 if compliance is not met, once letter is reviewed and approved by WAC legal counsel.

Motion: Bud Gladstone

Second: Fred Huneke

**Opposed: Chris DiBenedetto, Karl Goeckel, Dave Cammer and Ken Smith
Approved**

Lawsuit Update – Craig reported that there is no change in the status of the lawsuit involving Argyle Farms; the case is still scheduled on the Court calendar for November for argument.

IV. Chair's Report – Sally Fairbairn

Sally distributed her September Chair report to the group.

A. Advisory Committee Meeting – Sally reminded everyone of the Advisory Committee meeting on November 12th at the Agroforestry Resource Center in Acra, NY. Amy distributed invitations to the group.

B. Yale Students Visit – Fred updated everyone on his recent visit with the Yale graduate students as he dies each year. He reported it was a great day.

C. Treadwell Property – This will be discussed further in Executive Session.

V. Resource Development Committee – Sally Fairbairn

Sally reported that the Resource Development Committee has not met recently, as much of the administrative time has been spent focusing on the Property Task Force.

VI. Finance Committee – John Riedl

A. August Financials

John reported that the Finance Committee meeting for October was cancelled, so he has nothing for the group at this time.

VII. Executive Session

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss real estate transactions.

Motion: Karl Goeckel
Second: Ken Smith
Approved

Motion to come out of Executive Session.
Motion: Bud Gladstone
Second: Dave Cammer
Approved

Motion to remove from consideration the purchase of the Treadwell facility for office space due to the location of the property existing external to the NYC watershed as well as the lack of available funding to support the acquisition and repurposing of the facility.

Motion: Karl Goeckel
Second: Ken Smith
Opposed: Dave Cammer
Approved

Statement: After 20 years of operation, the condition and separation of WAC's West-of-Hudson offices are beginning to limit the pursuit of WAC's mission. WAC's obligations to perpetually steward easements and support DEP's goal of sustaining source water protection are limited by housing West-of-Hudson staff in separate locations. In order to meet these obligations WAC needs to secure appropriate office space to house its West-of-Hudson operations. Over the coming months and years WAC and DEP will work together to site and build a new facility in the NYC Watershed for WAC's West-of-Hudson staff. Building a new office will allow WAC to meet the challenges of protecting water quality over the next 20 years and beyond.

Motion to empower the Property Task Force to facilitate the process of siting and building a new state of the art facility in the watershed with DEP guidance and funding support.

Motion Bud Gladstone
Second: Fred Huneke
Approved

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.