

Watershed Agricultural Council

Agriculture ♦ Forestry ♦ Conservation Easements ♦ Economic Viability

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MINUTES OF THE WATERSHED AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL MEETING

April 23, 2024

I. Meeting called to order at 10:07 a.m.

Directors Present:

Dwight Bruno, via Teams
James Darling, via Teams
Paul Gallay, via Teams
Wayland 'Bud' Gladstone, *Chair*
Karl Gockel, *Treasurer*
Jennifer Grossman, *Secretary*, via Teams
Barb Hanselman, via Teams
Jason Helmbold
Fred Huneke
Tom Hutson, *Vice Chair*
Steve Reed, via Teams
John Verhoeven, via Teams
Jeff Wilson, via Teams
Marilyn Wyman, via Teams
John Vickers, *DEP Representative*

Directors Absent:

None

Others Present:

Ryan Naatz, *Executive Director*
Amy Faulkner, *Director of Operations*
Carol Bishop, *Finance Director*
Connor Young, *WOH Agricultural Program Manager*
Nate Townsend, *Whole Farm Planning Coordinator*
Peter Steenland, *Technician & Engineering Coordinator*
Elaine Poulin, *Procurement & Contract Coordinator*, via Teams
Brian LaTourette, *Program Operations Coordinator*
Tom Pavlesich, *Forestry Program Manager*
Serena Orleski, *Easement Program Manager*
Mike Morales, *Easement Program Stewardship Coordinator*
Bill Martin, *Easement Program Acquisition Coordinator*
Kayla Atanasoff, *Easement Program Executive Assistant*
Kristan Morley, *Economic Viability Program Manager*
Heather Magnan, *Communications Manager*
John Jackson, *Database Administrator*, via Teams
Michael Vander Werff, *NYC DEP*
Sara Storrer, *NYC DEP*
Tom Ganz, *NYC DEP*
Lee Harris, *NYC DOI*, via Teams
Patrick Palmer, *NYS DOH*
Paul Kaczmarczyk, *NYS DOH*
Morgan Tarbell, *NYS DOH*
Pauline Wanjugi, *NYS DOH*, via Teams
Bruce Dolph, *DC SWCD Board*, via Teams
Elizabeth DeFalco, *The Reporter*, via Teams
Mary Crisafulli, *The Mountain Eagle*, via Teams

TDD 1-800-662-1220

Watershed protection through partnership.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the March 26, 2024 minutes, as presented.

Motion: John Vickers

Second: Tom Hutson

Approved

III. Additions/Deletions

- A. *'Successor Contract Negotiations' was moved to Executive Session*
- B. *'Committee Restructuring Updates' was moved to Executive Session*

IV. Executive Director's Report – Ryan Naatz

- A. Operational and Programmatic Updates – Dashboards

Ryan explained that WAC senior leadership have been discussing ways to improve how operational and programmatic updates are reported to Council members, particularly for quarterly meetings. Moving forward, Council members will come prepared with any questions and/or comments on materials distributed prior to meetings – as opposed to leadership presenting summaries for these materials in advance of questions and comments. The time saved will be devoted to spotlighting a WAC initiative, program, or current topic.

- B. Spotlight: Logger Training

Tom gave a presentation on the WAC Forestry Program's logger training efforts which seek to promote and incentivize timber harvesting safety and productivity, continuing education in water quality protection and forest stewardship, and the economic viability of forestry enterprises.

Amy thanked Tom for his presentation and announced that next month's spotlight will be on Finance. Ryan encouraged Council members to reach out if there were any particular topics they were interested in hearing about.

- C. Successor Contract Negotiations (*moved to Executive Session*)

V. Chair's Report – Wayland 'Bud' Gladstone

- A. Committee Restructuring Update (*moved to Executive Session*)

VI. Finance Committee – Karl Gockel & Carol Bishop

- A. February Financials – Motion

Karl explained that moving forward, Carol will submit a pared-down version of the monthly financial statements to Council members, with a “highlights” summary included. The full financial statements are reviewed by the Finance Committee and are available for any members that are interested.

Motion to accept the February Financials as presented.

Motion: Tom Hutson

Second: Fred Huneke

Approved

VII. Forestry Committee – Marilyn Wyman & Tom Pavlesich

A. Forestry Handbook Modifications – Motion

Motion to approve the attached Forestry Program Handbook modifications and direct staff to obtain DEP approval of these modifications in accordance with the CAT 487 contract prior to implementation.

Motion: Steve Reed

Second: John Verhoeven

Approved

VIII. NYC DEP Report – John Vickers

John reported that DEP remains focused on the final edits to all three successor contracts. Michael added that WAC and the DEP Bureau of Water Supply have approved all edits to the contracts. Those edits are currently under review by DEP legal counsel, and they anticipate an update on final edits by weeks end.

IX. NYS DOH, US EPA Reports – Patrick Palmer & Katie Lynch

Patrick reported that stakeholder meetings for the Streamside and Land Acquisition Programs are still ongoing. He encouraged anyone with questions about those meetings, or the Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) in general, to reach out.

He also touched on new EPA metrics for water system compliance standards, indicating that enforcement would not begin until 2029 but will affect many systems.

X. Executive Session

Motion to enter Executive Session at 10:56 a.m.

Motion: John Vickers

Second: Karl Gockel

Approved

Motion to come out of Executive Session at 11:26 a.m.

Motion: John Vickers

Second: Fred Huneke

Approved

XI. Other

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by common consent at 11:26 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., via Teams.**