Minutes of the Watershed Agricultural Council  
December 21, 2021

I. Meeting called to order at 1:05 pm via Zoom call.

Roll Call:
Directors Present, via video conference call:
Dwight Bruno      Marilyn Wyman
Dave Cammer      Karl Gockel
Wayland “Bud” Gladstone     Steve Reed
Fred Huneke      John Riedl
Tom Hutson      James Darling
John Verhoeven     Jennifer Grossman
Richard Giles      John Vickers, NYC DEP

Directors Absent:
Larry Burgin      Eleanor Blakeslee-Drain

Others Present, via Zoom:
Ryan Naatz       Amy Faulkner
Gibson Durnford   Kristan Morley
Heather Magnan     Tom Pavlesich
Larry Hulle      Tal Ron, NYC DOI
Jeff Graff, NYC DEP Michael Vanderwerff, NYC DEP
Bruce Dolph      Paul Kaczmarczyk, NYS DOH
Morgan Tarbell, NYS DOH    Patrick Palmer, NYS DOH

Bud asked if there were any additions to the agenda, Ryan would like to expand on item #9 regarding the nutrient management discussion to include Jim Darling requesting to make a statement.

II. Approval of Minutes
Motion to approve the November 23, 2021 minutes, as amended to reflect Dave Cammer was absent.
Motion: Steve Reed
Second: John Verhoeven
Carried

III. Executive Director Report
A. Program Report:
a. 2021 WAC Annual Report: The electronic version of the Annual Report was included in the packet, Ryan commended Heather for her efforts and working with program
staff to develop highlights and feels this is an excellent showcase of WAC.

B. Operations Report:
   a. **Staffing Update** - Amy provided a staffing update that included Patricia Bowker has joined WAC as the Payroll, Fringe Benefits and DP Administrator and Carol Bishop has accepted the position of Finance Director and is scheduled to start on February 21, 2022. Once the new Finance Director is on-boarded, the hiring of a staff accountant will resume. The positions of Easement Program Director and GIS Coordinator are currently advertised through January 20, 2022.
   b. **Monitor Agreement** – Ryan reported that he would be providing routine, brief updates on the progress of the monitor agreement at each Council meeting. The group has met routinely over the last two months to address a laundry list of questions, comments, concerns and any immediate corrective measures to be implemented. Ryan detailed some of the recommendations and corrective measures already implemented. He added that he anticipates having a draft code of conduct over the next couple of weeks; Cynthia has requested that she and Amy work on the initial draft for presentation to the group. WAC will be keeping a list of all corrective measures and recommendations put in place. Fred asked if Cynthia would be attending the Council meeting from time to time, as he, and other members, would appreciate an introduction. Ryan mentioned that he believes Tal and Lee will attend the majority of meetings.
   c. **CAT 403/503**: Registration process at the City level is underway. It will likely be late February or early March before CAT 403 is registered and WAC has the ability to submit a payment request on that contract. DEP and WAC staff have met to discuss Budget Realignment #3; the corresponding one-year budget was submitted. Bill Newberry, YPTC was instrumental in reformatting the budget which is very much appreciated. WAC has a few additional tweaks to make and it will be resubmitted. WAC does have enough cash on hand to bridge the gap through February.

III. Chair’s Report – Bud Gladstone
   A. 2021 Review and Update
      • Bud provided a summary of the year in review. He expressed his appreciation to the Council and Staff working through the year. Although we have lost some valuable staff, Bud stated that he owes a debt of gratitude for the staff that have remained with us and assisted in helping see WAC through. He also shared his appreciation of the support from Morgan, Paul, Pat and Katie, the “Regulators” as WAC continues to do their best. He also thanked the Council members for renewing their terms with us. Fred acknowledged Bud’s willingness to step up as chairman and the outstanding job he has done of keeping things together during challenging times.
   B. Directors Only
      • Jennifer Grossman briefly reviewed the work the Council has done throughout the year in regards to visioning and strategic planning. She asked that everyone please recognize that the hard work, honesty and dedication each person offered, particularly during the Strategic Visioning Director’s Only (DO) sessions, was invaluable. She added it will serve as the platform for us to move ahead in a unified front to design and establish structures and policies that allow WAC to achieve its goals and grow. As the New Year begins, we will take time to review our progress from the five DO sessions of 2021 and focus on the fortification of our board membership as we begin the year with 15 directors, the minimum number required by our bylaws. The SVT will put a timeline together in January and February that will allow us an opportunity to recruit great additions to our team next spring and allow them to participate in designing next steps
forward over the summer and Fall.

V. Finance Committee – Karl Gockel
   A. Financials
      • October Financials were included in the packet.
   
   **Motion to accept the October financials as presented.**
   Motion: Tom Hutson
   Second: Fred Huneke
   Carried

   B. Payment Requests
      • Karl reported that staff continue to work with DEP to get the payment requests processed. CAT 403 payment requests will be submitted once that contract is registered; Tom Hutson thanked Karl for stepping up as Treasurer over the past year.

Dave Cammer left the meeting at this time.

VI. Governance Committee – John Verhoeven
   A. Slate of Directors
   The Governance Committee will work this year to recruit additional board members. Ryan confirmed with DOI that current members, renewing their terms do not need further consideration or approval from DOI; however new members will need to be vetted. Both Ryan and John Verhoeven expressed that WAC wants to be very deliberate on who is invited to be a board member and prior to any new members being recruited a clear and concise process needs to be developed by the Governance Committee and utilized to target the areas identified in the work done by SVT over the past year. This will be a more robust discussion in January and February.

   **Motion to recommend to the Council of Directors the following Directors for the term of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023:**

   Eleanor Blakeslee-Drain
   Motion: Karl Gockel
   Second: Tom Hutson
   Carried

   Dwight Bruno
   Motion: Fred Huneke
   Second: Bud Gladstone
   Dwight Bruno recused himself
   Carried

   Dave Cammer
   Motion: Bud Gladstone
   Second: John Riedl
   Carried

   Wayland Gladstone
   Motion: Fred Huneke
   Second: Marilyn Wyman
   Bud Gladstone recused himself
Carried

Jennifer Grossman
Motion: Marilyn Wyman
Second: Steve Reed
Jennifer Grossman recused herself
Carried

Tom Hutson
Motion: Bud Gladstone
Second: Steve Reed
Tom Hutson recused himself
Carried

Steve Reed
Motion: Fred Huneke
Second: Tom Hutson
Steve Reed recused himself
Carried

John Riedl
Motion: Marilyn Wyman
Second: Steve Reed
John Riedl recused himself
Carried

VII. Easement Committee – Tom Hutson
- Tom reported program staff will be happy to get back on track with program activities.

VIII. Agricultural Committee – Bud Gladstone
Motions to approve the revisions as presented and approved by the Agricultural Program staff and Committee:

Motion: Richard Giles
Second: Steve Reed
Karl Gockel Abstained
Carried

Martin Whitbeck & Anne Aikens – DEC-SF042 – Revision 2 – Priority Equipment Replacement
Motion: Karl Gockel
Second: Fred Huneke
Carried

- Steve Reed reported that the Nutrient Management Subcommittee met December 2 and approved peer review committee meeting minutes. With the Dairy One subcontract finally completed samples have been submitted for analysis but the delay will likely impact the NM workload for FY23. John Riedl asked if soil sampling interns would still be hired at WAC, Ryan responded that there was money built in the budget for interns for
the spring of 2022; beyond that as the organizational budget is developed in March or April we will look to fully restore that line item. Ryan provided an update on the behind the scenes work with YPTC and OEA regarding CAT 433 rollover of NMC. Sonia from OEA and Bill are in the final steps on getting that number reconciled, there seems to be approximately $200,000 that will need to be moved to a separate dedicated bank account for the CAT 433 NMC monies. Jim requested an opportunity to address Council regarding the manure spreading issue with his farm on DEP owned property; he sincerely apologized to the Council and the staff and for any issues that his actions have caused and that he has been committed to resolving the issue, in its entirety, with all parties involved. Ryan added that the Department of Health has opined that there is no further action necessary regarding potable water, and Jim is now just working with DEP to resolve all other concerns.

IX. Forestry Committee – Tom Pavlesich
The Forestry Program staff spent a significant time recently on pinpointing the reasons for missed deliverables in the program. Their research has shown that the MAP missed deliverable was due to financial constraints of WAC and staff delaying projects; the stream crossing deliverable was missed due to the wet weather this fall, the ground conditions were not suitable to complete the projects; BMP project deliverable was missed because of a recently adopted requirement of workers compensation coverage for loggers. As a result fewer loggers are available to complete the projects. Tom explained that the Council can expect to see some language in the next few months to address the workers compensation issue. He would prefer to have those resolved in February or March at the latest.

X. East of Hudson Committee – Fred Huneke and Gibson Durnford
Motion to approve the Castle Hill Farm Whole Farm Plan as presented.
Motion: Fred Huneke
Second: Karl Gockel
Carried

Dave Cammer returned to the meeting at this time.

XI. Economic Viability Committee – Richard Giles
- Richard reported that the EV Committee micro grants round is open as well as the launch of the new Farm and Forest Transition Reimbursement grants. Richard thanked Jeff and Kristan for putting together these programs. This is an opportunity to continue to grow the EV program through these grants and there is potential for great impact on watershed farmers in a positive way.

XII. NYC DEP Report – John Vickers
- John expressed his goal for open and transparent communication with WAC at all times; he and Ryan have started biweekly meetings to address any issues or concerns; he is hopeful that the consistent communication will allow issues to be addressed more timely. Payments through December are caught up; which should leave WAC in a good cash position. The CAT 450 Amendment has been completed, which will ensure those funds remain available for WAC to utilize until payment #28 can be submitted. With regards to CAT 487 Ryan and John will work with ACCO and OEA to try to get capital payments restarted on that contract. This is contingent upon YPTC completing their accounting of the due to due from; the intent is to have that reconciled and cash advances going again in time for contract out for the upcoming BMP construction season.
• John Vickers thanked Jeff Graff for the work that he has done for WAC over the last few years; taking the brunt of the additional work on behalf of DEP and he will continue to assist in the transition.

XIII. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 pm.
Motion: Dave Cammer
Second: Tom Hutson
Carried

The next meeting will be held January 25, 2022 at 1:00pm