

Watershed Agricultural Council

Agriculture ♦ Forestry ♦ Conservation Easements ♦ Economic Viability

nycwatershed.org



Minutes of the Watershed Agricultural Council

December 20, 2022

I. Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m.

Roll Call:

Directors Present, via Zoom:

Dwight Bruno
Dave Cammer, *Vice Chair*
James Darling
Paul Gally
Richard Giles, *Secretary*
Bud Gladstone, *Chair*
Karl Gockel, *Treasurer*
Jennifer Grossman
Jason Helmbold
Fred Huneke
Tom Hutson
Steve Reed
John Verhoeven
Marilyn Wyman
John Vickers, *NYC DEP*

Directors Absent:

None

Others Present, via Zoom:

Ryan Naatz, *Executive Director*
Amy Faulkner, *Director of Operations*
Carol Bishop, *Finance Director*
Cindy McCarthy, *NM & PFM Coordinator*
Gibson Durnford, *EoH Agricultural Program Manager*
Tom Pavlesich, *Forestry Program Manager*
Serena Orleski, *Easement Program Manager*
Kayla Atanasoff, *Easement Program Executive Assistant*
Kristan Morley, *Economic Viability Program Manager*
Heather Magnan, *Communications Director*
Michael Vander Werff, *NYC DEP*
Lee Harris, *NYC DOI*
Patrick Palmer, *NYS DOH*
Pauline Wanjugi, *NYS DOH*
Bruce Dolph, *DC SWCD Board*
Rebecca Reynolds, *RBT CPAs, LLP*
Elizabeth DeFalco, *The Reporter*

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 22, 2022 and December 2, 2022 meetings as presented.

Motion: Steve Reed

Second: Tom Hutson

Approved

III. FY21 Audit – Rebecca Reynolds, CPA

Rebecca presented the findings for the 2021 Audit Report, and answered questions.

Motion to accept the FY21 Audit as presented.

Motion: Fred Huneke

Second: James Darling

Approved

IV. Executive Director’s Report – Ryan Naatz

A. Operational/Program Report

Amy presented this update. She explained that the license agreement with Westchester County has been signed and returned for the continued lease of the East of Hudson office space, as well as expanded use of the property grounds and facilities. Once WAC receives the fully executed lease agreement, the payments owed will be released.

With regards to the DW SWCD sub-lease agreement, WAC is still waiting on the lease language to be finalized by the attorneys. Again, once a lease is fully executed, payments will be released.

B. Giving Tuesday Update

Ryan presented this update. He reported that WAC was able to raise just over \$2,700 – between donations from Board members, staff, DEP representatives, and members of the public. He thanked those that were able to contribute and expressed his appreciation.

V. Chair’s Report – Bud Gladstone

Bud took a moment to thank Carol for her hard work to present thorough and understandable financial statements – he also thanked Karl for chairing the Finance Committee.

He announced that some long-time Directors have expressed that they are looking to scale back in their roles or resign from their positions in the coming year or so. With that in mind, the Board is currently looking at a few qualified, interested candidates.

He expressed how pleased he was to see WAC programs fully implemented once again as the organization continues to make positive strides in fulfilling its mission to protect water quality. WAC will continue working closely with DOI to make further improvements to the organizational structure.

VI. Governance Committee – John Verhoeven

A. Slate of Directors – Motion

Upon the recommendation of the Governance Committee, motion to appoint the following slate of Directors for the term of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024:

1. James Darling

*****James Darling abstained from the vote*****

Motion: Fred Huneke

Second: Tom Hutson

Approved

2. Richard Giles

*****Richard Giles abstained from the vote*****

Motion: Karl Kockel

Second: Marilyn Wyman

Approved

3. Karl Gockel

*****Karl Gockel abstained from the vote*****

Motion: Dave Cammer
Second: Bud Gladstone
Approved

4. Fred Huneke

Fred Huneke recused himself

Motion: Bud Gladstone
Second: Steve Reed
Approved

5. John Verhoeven

John Verhoeven abstained from the vote

Motion: John Vickers
Second: Tom Hutson
Approved

6. Marilyn Wyman

Marilyn Wyman recused herself

Motion: Dwight Bruno
Second: Tom Hutson
Approved

B. Board Candidate Recruitment Update

John reported that the Committee received three new Board candidate recommendations – discussion of the candidates would take place in Executive Session.

VII. Finance Committee – Karl Gockel

A. October Financials – Motion

Karl explained that the bulk of this month’s Committee meeting pertained to the FY21 Audit Report. He took a moment to thank fellow Board members for the approval of the use of a line of credit for continued services while corrected requests for payment are being processed.

Motion to accept the October Financials as presented.

Motion: Marilyn Wyman

Second: Fred Huneke

Approved

VIII. Human Resources Committee – Marilyn Wyman

Marilyn explained that Committee did not meet over the last month, but she will be meeting with a Sub-Committee that has been working on updating performance reviews. She will have more to report at the next Council meeting.

IX. Easement Committee – Tom Hutson

Tom explained that Stewardship staff are finishing up annual monitoring visits for the 2022 calendar year. He reported that the program is currently looking into resuming aerial monitoring next year, which had turned into drive-by monitoring visits with the onset of COVID-19. In addition, the program's new *Acquisition Coordinator*, Bill Martin, has begun reengaging with projects that had been paused in 2020.

X. Agricultural Committee – Steve Reed

A. Nutrient Management Credit Award – Motion

Motion to approve the 2021/2022 NM Credit Award for the Ray Buel Farm as reviewed and recommended by the NM Sub-Committee on December 1, 2022 and as further informed by the November 17, 2022 review of the proposed award summary.

Motion: Dwight Bruno

Second: Tom Hutson

Approved

B. Program Approvals – Motion

Upon the recommendation of the Agricultural Committee, motion to approve the following Summary Revisions:

(DEC-256) – Revision 7, New CREP

Motion: Dave Cammer

Second: Karl Gockel

Approved

(DEC-057) – Revision 13, New CREP

Motion: Bud Gladstone

Second: Dwight Bruno

Approved

(DEC-SF041) – Revision 3, Backlog BMP

Motion: Bud Gladstone

Second: Fred Huneke

Approved

XI. Forestry Committee – Dave Cammer

Dave reported that all Forestry deliverables have been met for the calendar year, apart from *Green Connections* – a justification for the missed deliverable due to COVID-19 was approved by DEP. He explained that Tom is currently working on the program annual report and FY 23-24 budget.

XII. East of Hudson Committee – Fred Huneke

Fred reported that all deliverables and nutrient management goals have been completed for the year – he noted that East of Hudson does not participate in the Nutrient Management Credit Program. He continued that the program is currently interviewing for an *Executive Assistant*, and the Regional Conservative Partnership Program (RCPP) and Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) grant projects are expected to be bid out in February or March 2023.

XIII. Economic Viability Committee – Richard Giles

Richard reported that the program recently released its *Holiday Gift Guide* – another gift guide will be available in the Spring. Kristan reminded everyone that a new grant round will open in January.

XIV. NYC DEP Report – John Vickers

John took a moment to say that he’s learned so much in his first year with WAC – he thanked Board members and staff for their support and patience. He continued by saying that during

that time, he has grown to strongly believe in WAC's mission and he has been impressed with the knowledge and dedication of WAC staff. He's happy with the progress made together, and he looks forward to the next year. He touched base on what needs attention in the coming months.

XV. NYS DOH, US EPA Reports

Patrick reported that he anticipates the Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) will be finalized and available very soon.

XVI. Other

XVII. Executive Session

Motion at 11:04 a.m. to enter Executive Session to discuss Board candidate recommendations.

Motion: Karl Gockel

Second: Tom Hutson

Approved

Motion at 11:22 a.m. to come out of Executive Session.

Motion: Dave Cammer

Second: Steve Reed

Approved

XVIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: John Verhoeven

Second: John Vickers

Approved

Meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 24, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.