

Watershed Agricultural Council

Agriculture ♦ Forestry ♦ Conservation Easements ♦ Economic Viability

33195 State Highway 10, Walton, New York 13856

phone: 607-865-7790

fax: 607-865-4932

nycwatershed.org



Executive Committee Meeting February 15, 2022

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Wayland “Bud” Gladstone via Zoom.

Members Present, via Zoom: Dave Cammer Tom Hutson
 Karl Gockel Bud Gladstone
 Fred Huneke John Vickers, NYC DEP

Members Absent: Richard Giles

Others Present, via Zoom: Ryan Naatz Amy Faulkner
 Jeff Graff, NYC DEP Lee Harris, DOI
 Jessica Nowlin, DOI Cynthia Irizarry, DOI
 Michael Vander Werff, NYC DEP

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2022 meeting as presented.

Motion: John Vickers

Second: Fred Huneke

Approved

III. Policy, Guideline, SOP Discussion

Ryan explained that the agenda was reformatted to allow the Executive Committee to focus on its work. The Committee plans to focus on the Executive Committee charge and then a review of the Policy Book. Dave Cammer asked where we stand with the Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest policy update. Ryan responded that he and Amy continue to work with DOI to get those two documents updated and developed. Ryan and Amy provided some suggestions for structure for the Committee to review the Policy Book.

Bud Gladstone has asked Steve Reed to join the Executive Committee as a non-voting member, at this time. The Committee will consider whether they would like to propose modified by-laws to reflect that all Committee Chairs be members on the Executive Committee. Members feel it is important for the Agricultural Committee Chair to be on the Executive Committee. Ryan will provide draft by-law modification for the Executive Committee to review to accomplish this within the next two months. Once the Executive Committee is satisfied they will then forward it to the Council in March and for approval in April.

For next steps with the Policy Book review Committee Chairs will meet with Program Managers regarding program specific policies. The Committee will consider one program area per meeting, this

TDD 1-800-662-1220

Watershed protection through partnership.

af: 2/15/22

will start with the EoH Program. Fred will work with Gibson to prepare a draft charge and any policy modifications or additions for the March meeting. Dave Cammer will work with Tom Pavlesich to present on Forestry for the April meeting.

IV. Additional Updates

Bud reported that he met with Cynthia and Jessica regarding Conflict of Interest and the potential for perceived conflicts with implementation on Council Member farms. Ryan added that the COI in relation to the entire program workload was what was being discussed, as WAC wanted to be sure we are anticipating any issues up front and being transparent about them. Fred added that he has heard there is a misconception amongst participants that Council Member projects come first. Ryan responded that if that is a real thing, then it is incumbent on the Agricultural Program Staff to be able to articulate the prioritization model. Beyond that it could be a zoom open for all participants. Karl added that the ASRs feedback has consistently shown that people that have implementation are thrilled, those waiting are unhappy – this is the natural reaction to the prioritization. The prioritization is based on science and mathematics and does not lie. If these questions come up staff need to know to be able to clearly explain this. Bud asked if a letter should be sent to the participants regarding the prioritization process. Karl feels it is the responsibility of WAC's staff to carry that message to the field. The program's focus on water quality. Staff should be upfront and honest with the participants. Bud explained that either way an accurate, consistent message needs to be provided.

Jessica Nowlin added that the discussion at this meeting was to ensure transparency from the beginning, not after the fact. Jessica explained that DOI is here to ensure WAC has proper policies and that we follow them, but not to write policy for WAC. DOI does not get operational.

V. Program Committee Chair Reports

Tom Hutson Easement Committee Chair reported that Easements and EV are making a more concerted effort to work together to share program opportunities with participants.

Karl reported that the December financials will not be approved at the Council, as they were incorrect. Ryan added that YPTC is adding a Project Manager to their team to assist WAC with getting everything addressed. The due to due from is largely complete with hopes to share in the next week or so, and eventually resolve. Dave Cammer asked for an update on the progress of the audit and 990. Ryan responded that nothing has changed at this time. WAC is working with DEP to finalize a subcontract document in order to secure the services. Wendy will reach out to a few additional firms that were provided by DEP in the event that Bonadio is unwilling to sign the contract or unable to fit WAC in to their schedules.

VI. NYC DEP Report

John Vickers had nothing to report.

VII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:11 am.

Motion: Dave Cammer

Second: Tom Hutson

Approved