

# Watershed Agricultural Council

Agriculture ♦ Forestry ♦ Conservation Easements ♦ Economic Viability

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## Minutes of the Watershed Agricultural Council February 22, 2022

### I. Meeting called to order at 1:06 pm via Zoom call.

#### Roll Call:

##### Directors Present, via video conference call:

Dwight Bruno

Dave Cammer

Wayland "Bud" Gladstone

Fred Huneke

Tom Hutson

John Verhoeven

John Vickers, NYC DEP

Marilyn Wyman

Karl Gockel

Steve Reed

John Riedl

James Darling

Jennifer Grossman

##### Directors Absent:

Eleanor Blakeslee-Drain

Richard Giles

##### Others Present, via Zoom:

Ryan Naatz

Carol Bishop

Larry Hulle

Nate Townsend

Brian LaTourette

Tom Ganz, NYC DEP

Patrick Palmer, NYS DOH

Lee Harris, NYC DOI

Michael Vanderwerff, NYC DEP

Paul Kaczmarczyk, NYS DOH

Amy Faulkner

Tom Pavlesich

Cindy McCarthy

Gibson Durnford

Kristan Morley

Cynthia Irizarry, NYC DOI

Jessica Nowlin, NYC DOI

Jeff Graff, NYC DEP

Bruce Dolph

Morgan Tarbell, NYS DOH

Bud asked if there were any additions to the agenda, Ryan would like to add to the Operations Report 4. PPP Loan Conversion Status and #5 Executive Committee.

### II. Approval of Minutes

**Motion to approve the January 26, 2022 and February 1, 2022 minutes, as presented.**

**Motion: Fred Huneke**

**Second: Tom Hutson**

**Approved**

### III. Executive Director Report

#### A. Operations Report:

1. Staffing Updates: Ryan introduced Carol Bishop as the new Finance Director, Carol

provided a brief bio of her professional experience. The Council Members introduced themselves. Amy provided additional staffing updates;

- Easement Program Director – conducting second round of interviews
- Staff Accountant – two positions currently advertised
- WAP PFM/Procurement Assistant – currently advertised
- EoH Program Executive Assistant – currently advertised
- Easement Program Executive Assistant – currently advertised
- GIS Coordinator – currently being re-advertised for a second round
- Josh Gorman has resigned as Easement Program Land Acquisition Coordinator.

2. Monitor Agreement Update: Ryan reported that he and Amy continue to work with Jessica and Cynthia at DOI to develop an improved Conflict of Interest policy and agreement, in conjunction with the Code of Conduct document, as required by the monitoring agreement. These documents, once complete, will be presented to Executive Committee in March and advanced to Council to adopt accordingly. Cynthia added that this is a collaborative experience and that the dates in the agreement are goals, but as long as everyone is putting in strong effort, she is fine with not strictly meeting the dates. Ryan added that this will make us a stronger organization in the end.
3. CAT 403 Extension Status: Finance staff have put together payment request #28 which is the first request on the extension, retroactive to January 1, 2022. John Vickers added that they expect registration by March 11<sup>th</sup>. John also reported that staff are reviewing payment request #28. DEP staff met with Bureau of Legal Affairs regarding Levene, Gouldin & Thompson legal agreement to provide services to the Easement Program under the CAT 403 contract; BLA was amenable with WAC continuing to utilize the engagement letter as the legal instrument to secure those services. Ryan added that many of the subcontracts for services in Easement Program also expired at 12/31/2021 when the CAT 403 Amendment did, but staff are working with DEP to get those extended.
4. PPP Loan Conversion: Ryan updated the group that the interest on the PPP loan has been converted to a five-year period loan and the initial payment will be due in April.
5. Executive Committee: The Executive Committee will be focusing on policy and guideline review and development. Each Program will be looked at individually with its respective Chair and Program Director r to review their policies and guidelines. The Committee will first focus on the East of Hudson Program, Gibson and Fred will be leading that effort in March.

**B. Program Report:**

Program Chairs reported program updates with the assistance of the Program Directors.

**III. Chair's Report – Bud Gladstone**

- Bud would like to reach out to the new DEP Commissioner to express the important of WACs work and working landscapes in the watershed region. Bud reported that he and Ryan met with Cynthia and Jessica from DOI to discuss prioritization and the implementation workload once the due to due from is reconciled.

**IV. Governance Committee – John Verhoeven**

**A. Directors Only Meeting**

- John reminded everyone of the Directors Only meeting scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup> at the Andes Hotel, an agenda will be forthcoming.

**B. Board Member Recommendations**

- Recommendations will be shared and discussed at the Directors Only Meeting.

**V. Agricultural Committee – Steve Reed**

A. Lime Pilot Program Extension – Motion

**Upon the recommendation of the Agricultural Committee, MOTION to approve the two year extension of the Cropland Liming Pilot Program (FY 2023 & 2024).**

**Motion: Fred Huneke**

**Second: John Verhoeven**

**Carried**

B. Agricultural Committee Approvals - Motion

**Upon the recommendation of the Agricultural Committee, motion to approve the David Cobbe – DEC-226 – WFP Revision 9 – 2022 Design Workload Revision**

**Motion: Bud Gladstone**

**Second: Dwight Bruno**

**Carried**

**Motion to approve the Carol Finch/Craig & Karleen DuMond – DEC-SF300 – Revision 4 – 2020 Design Workload adjustments (Backlog)**

**Motion: Jim Darling**

**Second: John Riedl**

**Carried**

**VI. Finance Committee – Karl Gockel**

**A. Financials**

- There are no financials for approval this month. Both December and January financials will be distributed in March for acceptance.
- Karl reported that YPTC has assigned a new Project Manager to WAC that will work with current YPTC staff to ensure timeliness of assignments.

**VII. NYC DEP Report – John Vickers**

- John reported that a new Commissioner has been appointed, he anticipates the Commissioner meeting with all watershed partners in the future, including WAC. John reported that DEP awaits the CAT 487 due to due from accounting analysis and once OEA is satisfied with the accounting, capital payments can resume. Payment #10C was processed as a \$0 payment. Staff have begun to review and process CAT 487 13E. DEP staff continue to work with WAC staff on the development of a revised Subcontract template, BLA has accepted the most recent template submitted by WAC with a few minor changes. DEP staff are now working to get the ACCOs approval of the template. John also reported that DEP staff are meeting internally to review subcontracts with DCSWCD and CCEDC and will forward any requested changes to those to Ryan soon. DEP staff await response from the ACCO on the CAT 503 draft, any suggested changes will need to be discussed and coordinated with WAC.

**VIII. Department of Health Report – Pat Palmer**

- Pat had to leave prior to his report. Morgan Tarbell reported that the 2017 Mid Term

Revision is undergoing internal review and they continue to wait for that to be processed.

**IX. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 pm.**

**Motion: John Verhoeven**

**Second: Steve Reed**

**Approved**

The next meeting will be held March 22, 2022 at 1:00pm