Minutes of the Watershed Agricultural Council  
July 27, 2021

I. Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm via Zoom call.

Directors Present, via video conference call:
- Dwight Bruno
- Dave Cammer
- Wayland Gladstone
- Karl Gockel
- Fred Huneke
- Eleanor Blakeslee-Drain
- Tom Hutson
- Marilyn Wyman
- Richard Giles
- Steve Reed
- Jennifer Grossman
- John Riedl
- James Darling
- Jeff Graff, NYC DEP

Directors Absent:
- Larry Burgin
- John Verhoeven

Others Present, via Zoom:
- Ryan Naatz
- Gibson Durnford
- Larry Hulle
- Tyler Van Fleet
- Elaine Poulin
- Nate Townsend
- Brian LaTourette
- Tom Pavlesich
- Morgan Tarbell, NYS DOH
- Amy Faulkner
- Kristan Morley
- Josh Gorman
- Cindy McCarthy
- John Jackson
- Pete Steenland
- Heather Magnan
- Bruce Dolph, DC SWCD

Ryan added on discussion and proposed motion regarding meeting times.

II. Approval of Minutes
Motion to approve the minutes of June 22, 2021, as presented.
Motion: James Darling
Second: John Riedl
Approved

III. Executive Director’s Report – Ryan Naatz
A. Program Report
1. East of Hudson Whole Farm Planning – Gibson Durnford. Gibson provided a presentation to the group on Whole Farm Planning in the East of Hudson Program.
2. Quarterly Program Managers Report – Dashboards were distributed to the Council from all programs detailing program activity over the past quarter. There were no
specific questions but the Council expressed appreciation of the dashboard reports. John Riedl asked John Jackson for an update on IT. John acknowledged Jimmy Sietsma for stepping up and assisting greatly in the absence of a GIS Coordinator. The project with Netkinetix is complete and John is working through getting the system online.

3. US Forest Service Grant: Tom provided a brief summary of the 2021 US Forest Service grant that has been awarded to WAC. Jeff asked Tom to be sure to follow up regarding the matching funds, there are some nuances for matching PATH. Motion tonight will be made contingent upon the formal request to DEP to utilize CAT 487 funding as matching funds.

Motion to approve the acceptance of the Forest Service Grant as presented contingent upon DEP approval per the CAT 487 contract:
Motion: Tom Hutson
Second: Dave Cammer
Approved

4. 44 West Street Lease: Ryan shared the latest correspondence received from Dave Warne stating that he/DEP, are working independently with DC SWCD and their attorney to resolve DEP's questions regarding the lease.

B. Operational Report
1. WAC Meeting Schedule: Ryan asked for input on modifying the Council meeting schedule to be all day meetings. Eleanor mentioned that having daytime meetings during the growing season is very difficult for board members who are actively farming. Also, board meetings during work hours could make it difficult to attract a more diverse board of directors, especially younger members and people of color.

Motion to modify the WAC meeting schedule to hold all meetings of the full Council at 1:00pm.
Motion: Dave Cammer
Second: Fred Huneke
Opposed: Eleanor Blakeslee-Drain, Richard Giles and Steve Reed

IV. Chair's Report – Bud Gladstone
A. Update on Directors Only Meeting
• The meeting was last week, Jennifer has requested that any resolutions resulting from the meeting be paused until next month when everyone has a bit more time to process the meeting.

B. Executive Director Position Description Modification
Motion to approve the Executive Director position description as presented:
Motion: Fred Huneke
Second: Tom Hutson
Approved

Motion to approve the Finance Director position description with the modifications discussed:
Motion: John Riedl
Second: Steve Reed
Approved

C. Proposed By-Law Modification
• The proposed by-law modification was distributed to the Council for action in August. During that time WAC’s attorneys are reviewing requirements to ensure that the proper steps are taken for by-law modifications.

V. Finance Committee – Karl Gockel
A. May Financials
Motion to accept the May Financial Statements on the recommendation of the Finance Committee.
Motion: Tom Hutson
Second: Dave Cammer
Approved

B. Audit Update: Amy provided a brief update on the exit conference and explained that it will be critical for the WAC to take a proactive approach to the next steps resulting from the findings and recommendations and utilize the services of YPTC as they were intended to assist in the development, outline and implementation in order to ensure a collective, organized approach. Bud mentioned the misconception of what WAC’s fixed assets represent and that WAC does not own the BMPs that are placed on farms. Concurrent to the final audit report being release WAC will be working with BWS, OEA and ACCO with the assistance of YPTC to get working on any recommendations.

C. Payment Requests: Karl explained that WAC still needs to utilize the line of credit for CAT 403 as we await receipt of payment #24. Jeff will work with Amy and Spring to advance #10 e as soon as some feedback is received for #9e.

D. YPTC Update: YPTC continues to work on the due to due from and Ryan is expecting a meeting on Thursday to further detail their findings, which Karl will join. Jeff added that the reconciliation of the due to due from continues to be top priority from DEPs perspective.

VI. NYC DEP Report – Jeff Graff
• Jeff had nothing more to report at this time.

VII. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 pm.
Motion: Dave Cammer
Second: Marilyn Wyman
Approved