Executive Committee Meeting
May 21, 2019

I. Call to Order
Meeting called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Sally Fairbairn.

Members Present: Dave Cammer  Sally Fairbairn
      John Riedl   Jeff Graff
      Tom Hutson  Bud Gladstone
      Richard Giles

Others: Fred Huneke
        Craig Cashman
        Amy Faulkner

Sally asked for additions to the Agenda, none were mentioned.

II. Approval of Minutes
Motion to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2019 meeting as presented.
Motion: Tom Hutson
Second: Bud Gladstone
Approved

III. Executive Director's Report
A. Operations Report
Contract negotiations report will be in Executive Session.

B. Program Report
Craig reported that the NAS tour on May 12 and 13th; weather was cold and rainy, however great tour and the staff assembled a great group of people with expertise to address all questions that arose. 7-8 panel members from across the United States were in attendance. Good perspective, number of farms and presentations focused on nutrient management and precision feed and the balance of water quality and economic viability. The tour mimicked more of the science and the economics. Great questions were asked from the panel members on Monday. Tuesday was the public forum, presentations went well. The intent was to coordinate slides and discussions on the balance of water quality and economic viability. Craig felt that the messaging came across well, the panel discussion that followed went a different direction than what was anticipated. There was discussion of expanding Pure Catskills for other areas within the region like tourism and fly fishing. Craig responded that our current focus is on products although we have recently included more agri-tourism, current goal is to expand the market for products that come from working landscapes. Discussed how to open access to more of the City markets. Sally added that panel members expressed appreciation for the rainy day of the tour to be able to see what farmers have to deal with; the tour also passed a non-participant farm which was a good example to show the difference. WAC and partnering agency teams did great
job preparing the places that were visited and the route taken. Sally was a bit
disappointed in the panel questions on Tuesday, very few direct questions, with a
low level of interaction from the panel members.

Jeff Graff reported that a research application team has been established at DEP
within the last two years, and there may be opportunity to propose certain topics for
them to focus research on to be able to provide a metrics of results of nutrient
management planning and other Agricultural Program BMPs. Non-point source
solution program results are difficult to measure, especially as it correlates to one
specific program or initiative within the watershed. The study being conducted by the
NAS panel is a FAD requirement and will be used in part to assist the City in
determining level of investment to address water source solutions and water
treatment solutions.

Craig attended a presentation by Columbia students on their evaluation of
Westchester County towns and ordinances to determine how agricultural friendly the
towns are. Gibson worked with a number of town officials to increase participation on
their behalf and to increase discussions around agricultural friendly ordinances in the
towns. Great job on behalf of students conducting the evaluations.

IV.  Chair's Report – Sally Fairbairn

A. Executive Director Evaluation
The Executive Director evaluation form and timeline was distributed to the group, all
were asked to complete the forms prior to the June meeting. No formal goals were
established for FY19 at the conclusion of last year’s evaluation.

V.  Executive Session
Motion to go in to Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations.
Motion: Bud Gladstone
Second: Tom Hutson
Approved

Jeff Graff left at this time. Ryan Naatz joined the meeting at this time.

Motion to come out of Executive Session.
Motion: Dave Cammer
Second: John Riedl
Approved

VI.  Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 11:45am.