

Watershed Agricultural Council

Agriculture ♦ Forestry ♦ Conservation Easements ♦ Economic Viability

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Executive Committee Meeting October 19, 2021

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Bud Gladstone via Zoom.

Members Present, via Zoom:

Dave Cammer
Karl Gockel
Fred Huneke

Tom Hutson
Bud Gladstone
Jeff Graff

Members Absent:

Richard Giles

Others Present, via Zoom:

Ryan Naatz
Nate Townsend

Amy Faulkner
Brian LaTourette

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2021 meetings as presented.

Motion: Fred Huneke

Second: Dave Cammer

Approved

III. Executive Director's Report

A. Program Report

- i. Ag Program WFP Revision Approvals: Brian LaTourette and Nate Townsend were present to discuss Agricultural Committee motions that require Executive Committee consideration.

Motions to approve the revisions as presented and approved by the Agricultural Program staff and Committee:

Neal Many – DEC-014 – Revision 5 – 2022 Design Workload Revision

Motion Karl Gockel

Second: Fred Huneke

Approved

Opposed Dave Cammer

Eklund Farm Machinery, Inc. – DEC-035 – Revision 11 – 2022 Design Workload Revision

Motion: Dave Cammer

Second: Karl Gockel

Approved

Vera Tzelepis – Liddle & Don Liddle – DEP-SF137 – Revision 1 – 2022 Design Workload Revision

TDD 1-800-662-1220

Watershed protection through partnership.

af: 10/19/21

Motion: Karl Gockel
Second: Dave Cammer
Approved

David & Patricia Wheeler – DEC-212 – Revision 8 – 2022 Design Workload Revision

Motion: Fred Huneke
Second: Dave Cammer
Approved

Thunderview Farms, LLC – SUR-001 – Revision 13 – 2022 Design Workload Revision Motion: Dave Cammer

Second: Fred Huneke

Dave Cammer asked if Coombes fixed the access road themselves as approved last year. Nate responded yes, this revision is the extension of that to complete that entire area.

Approved

JJ Farber Farm – GRS-001 – Revision 13 – 2021 Workload cost update

Motion: Dave Cammer

Second: Fred Huneke

Jeff asked if there were discussions regarding handling recusals that are not on the committee for the vote. Ryan responded that this has not been addressed by the working group with OEA, ACCO and DOI at this point.

Approved

Jeff Graff Abstained

Nate Townsend and Brian LaTourette left the meeting at this time.

B. Operations Report

- i. Payment Request/Financial Status: Ryan provided a brief update to the group on cash status. Balances at 9/30/2021 of cash in bank need to be considered with the monies pledged to cover commitments that include paying back PPP, the Truesdell easement, payback CAT 450, etc. When those commitments are taken into account; WAC will be operating in the negative by the end of the week. We will need to utilize funds that were dedicated to repayment of the PPP and CAT 450 loan in order to continue to operate. Ryan has assurances from Dave Warne that OEA is reviewing payment requests 10 and 26 as expeditiously as possible and is a priority, but the OEA and ACCO functions are out of Dave's control. Funds are needed by end of next week in order to stay in the black. Fred expressed frustration that WAC continues to be struggling to maintain cash flow even after a year of working to our best ability to right things. Ryan stated that at this point he is working to avoid utilizing the line of credit and is hoping to be able to use the funds that are committed to pay back the PPP loan. Bud pointed out that this puts us into another due to due from situation, as they are monies pledged to other commitments. Ryan clarified that it is not ideal but it is not 'comingling' and the PPP funds are not contract funds. Fred asked if ACCO approved the repayment of the PPP funds? Ryan responded that the PPP loan is WAC's obligation independent of the City, WAC has received payment from the City for the same salary and fringe for the exact term that can be utilized to repay the PPP loan. It is unlikely that WAC would be forgiven for the PPP loan funds, however if the Council determines they would like to ask for forgiveness the application can be submitted at a later date. Bud stated that WAC does not have a reliable source of funding at this time so perhaps forgiveness is a possibility. The intent is to resolve the PPP loan at the beginning of 2022 with the hopes that we should be caught up on payment requests and operating under CAT 503. Karl added that until WAC is strictly on forward request payments, we will run out of money. Amy provided an update on payment request status.

Ryan mentioned that recently the ACCO has suggested modifying CAT 503 to better handle the cost sharing between the contracts, this will take a great amount of time so it is unclear how or when CAT 503 will get registered by 12/31/2021.

The annual payment request for CAT 450 was submitted in August for the endowment account. BWS staff have requested of WAC the status of the repayment of CAT 450, hoping to reconcile that soon.

Dave Cammer asked for total of line h reductions, Ryan stated he would need to get back to the Committee on that.

- ii. 44 West Street Lease update: Brian L, Larry H and Tom P have truthed the lease and supporting documents and put together a very brief presentation for Council at the meeting next week. Ryan will be looking for a motion from Council to approve that rate retroactive to April 1, 2021. DEP has confirmed that after the one-time submittal of the supporting documentation, it will not be required to do a monthly reconciliation. Jeff is working with OEA on how to account for FY21 commitments. Dave Cammer asked how WAC will pay that without any cash on hand. Ryan responded that until we receive the next few payment requests we won't have the cash flow to pay the retroactive amount owed as we will owe approximately \$85,000. Fred expressed his frustration with signing a lease that we do not have the money to pay.
- iii. Staffing Updates: Ryan reported that Rob Birdsall is officially done at WAC so his tasks are being divided amongst Easement Program Staff and himself.

IV. Chair's Report – Bud Gladstone

A. Executive Director Position

This will be discussed in Executive Session.

B. Monitoring Report

Nutrient Management Staff have been doing a great job providing presentation of information on the program to ACCO, OEA, and DOI which has been extremely helpful to everyone's understanding of the complexities of the program. Fred and Bud had a good conversation with Lee Harris who will be an investigator working with WAC on the monitorship agreement. Ryan added that he hopes to have a final copy of the monitorship agreement for Council consideration next week. Dave Cammer asked why no one from DEP attended the Ag Tour. Jeff responded that he has no staff and is completely swamped and could not attend.

V. Executive Session

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Motion: Fred Huneke

Second: Tom Hutson

Approved

Ryan Naatz left the meeting at this time.

Motion to come out of Executive Session

Motion: Dave Cammer

Second: Fred Huneke

Approved

VI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 11:05am

af: 10/19/2021

Motion: Tom Hutson
Second: Dave Cammer
Approved