

# Watershed Agricultural Council

Agriculture ♦ Forestry ♦ Conservation Easements ♦ Economic Viability

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## MINUTES OF THE WATERSHED AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL MEETING

October 22, 2024

### I. Meeting called to order at 10:04 a.m.

#### Directors Present:

Dwight Bruno  
James Darling  
Paul Gallay, *via Teams*  
Wayland 'Bud' Gladstone, *Chair*  
Karl Gockel, *Treasurer*  
Jason Helmbold  
Fred Huneke  
Tom Hutson, *Vice Chair*  
Steve Reed, *via Teams*  
John Verhoeven  
Marilyn Wyman  
Shilo Williams, *NYC DEP*

#### Directors Absent:

Jennifer Grossman, *Secretary*  
Barb Hanselman  
Jeff Wilson

#### Others Present:

Ryan Naatz, *Executive Director*  
Amy Faulkner, *Director of Operations*  
Carol Bishop, *Finance Director*  
Elaine Poulin, *Procurement & Contract Coordinator, via Teams*  
Tom Pavlesich, *Forestry Program Manager*  
Serena Orleski, *Easement Program Manager*  
Bill Martin, *Easement Program Acquisition Coordinator*  
Kayla Atanasoff, *Easement Program Executive Assistant*  
Kristan Morley, *Economic Viability Program Manager*  
Heather Magnan, *Communications Manager*  
John Jackson, *Database Administrator*  
Michael Vander Werff, *NYC DEP*  
Sara Storrer, *NYC DEP*  
Tom Ganz, *NYC DEP, via Teams*  
Lee Harris, *NYC DOI*  
Patrick Palmer, *NYS DOH, via Teams*  
Paul Kacmarczyk, *NYS DOH, via Teams*  
Morgan Tarbell, *NYS DOH, via Teams*  
Pauline Wanjugi, *NYS DOH, via Teams*  
Elizabeth DeFalco, *The Reporter, via Teams*  
Mary Crisafulli, *The Mountain Eagle, via Teams*

### II. Approval of Minutes

***Motion to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2024 meeting, as presented.***

Motion: Fred Huneke

Second: Shilo Williams

**Approved**

### **III. Executive Director's Report – Ryan Naatz**

#### **A. Operational and Programmatic Updates – Dashboards**

Ryan asked for any questions or comments on the Dashboards included as part of the meeting packet materials. With no questions, the floor moved to Bud to present the Chair's Report.

### **IV. Chair's Report – Wayland 'Bud' Gladstone**

Bud highlighted that the NYC DEP recently announced the halting of its Land Acquisition Program (LAP) in Priority Areas 3 and 4 of the Catskill/Delaware Watershed. Shilo added that the DEP will continue acquisitions in Priority Areas 1 and 2, as well as the Streamside Acquisition Program (SAP).

### **V. Finance Committee – Karl Gockel & Carol Bishop**

Karl shared some updates from the last Finance Committee meeting before moving to votes for the motions presented.

#### **A. August Financials – Motion**

***Motion to approve the August Financials as presented.***

Motion: Jason Helmbold

Second: Dwight Bruno

**Approved**

#### **B. Successor Contracts Bank Accounts – Motion**

***Motion to approve the creation of the 5 new accounts at Wayne Bank for the DEP successor contracts.***

Motion: John Verhoeven

Second: Jim Darling

**Approved**

### **VI. Audit Committee – John Verhoeven**

#### **A. Committee Charge – Motion**

***Motion to approve the Audit and Regulatory Oversight Committee Charge as presented.***

Motion: Fred Huneke

Second: Tom Hutson

**Approved**

## **VII. Building Committee – Karl Gockel**

Karl announced that the Building Committee will be meeting monthly moving forward. The Request for Proposals for site-scoping and design has already been advertised; the site showing will be held Wednesday, October 23, 2024.

### **A. Committee Charge – Motion**

***Motion to approve the Building Committee Charge as presented.***

Motion: Bud Gladstone

Second: Tom Hutson

***Approved***

## **VIII. Governance Committee – John Verhoeven**

John reported that the Governance Committee will be meeting again soon. He asked that completed self-assessments be submitted to Amy Faulkner by close of business on Friday, October 25, 2024, if not already submitted.

## **IX. Forestry Committee – Marilyn Wyman & Tom Pavlesich**

### **A. Forest Service Grant Approval – Motion**

***Motion to approve the Forestry Program Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration Grant as presented.***

Motion: Jason Helmbold

Second: Fred Huneke

***Approved***

## **X. NYC DEP Report – Shilo Williams**

Shilo had nothing to report on at this time.

## **XI. NYS DOH, US EPA Reports – Patrick Palmer & Katie Lynch**

Patrick had nothing to report on at this time.

## **XII. Other**

*None*

## **XIII. Executive Session**

***Motion to enter Executive Session at 10:17 a.m.***

Motion: John Verhoeven

Second: Karl Gockel

***Approved***

***Motion to come out of Executive Session at 10:33 a.m.***

Motion: Fred Huneke

Second: Jim Darling

***Approved***

**XIV. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m. by common consent.

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.**