

## Minutes of the Watershed Agricultural Council Meeting

December 22, 2009

### I. Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m.

#### Directors Present:

David Cammer	Fred Huneke
Linda DeWitt	Darby Hartwell
Tom Donnelly	Richard Giles
Sally Fairbairn	Ken Smith
William Coleman	Tom Hutson
Barbara Howard	Joe Eisele
Dave Post	John Verhoeven
John Schwartz, NYC DEP	

#### Others Present:

Craig Cashman	Thomas Artale
Cheryl Marion	Seth Hersh
Jeff Graff	

### II. Approval of Minutes

**Motion to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2009 WAC meeting with the change in the attendance motion waiver to reflect that Dave Post abstained and Linda Dewitt was not present.**

**Motion: Dave Cammer**

**Second: John Schwartz**

**Approved**

### III. Executive Director Report – Craig Cashman

Craig detailed the Operational Report and the Program Report/Approvals dated December 22, 2009 that were distributed.

**DEP Contract** – WAC-08 contract closeout completed. WAC-09 Contract Modification going well with revised budget to be approved in January.

**Easement Contract Negotiations** - Jeff and Craig continue to meet with the DEP to discuss the framework for the next easement contract. They have reviewed the conceptual plan that would bring unanimous consent to majority rule. Though an agreement has not been reached a consideration would be to sign a one year agreement and work on details in 2010-11 for language consensus and a long term agreement.

**NYSERDA Grant** – Final information has been forwarded based on requested details and WAC is awaiting final payment.

**DSA Report** – With modifications of the DEP contract WAC will write an HR audit RFP in the spring and conduct the audit in July.

**PAR – Seth Hersh**

Seth's optimism became diminished two weeks ago when one hour before the demo/training he realized we did not have a stable product. He discovered 11 major problems and 50 minor ones. Although PAR has been cooperative in turning its ship around they have not completed their agreement. Now they are taking time out of Phase III which was supposed to be for Forestry and Easements to work on Ag problems. They still think Phase II can be completed by January 19<sup>th</sup> but Seth will not have had the opportunity to test it. The same developers will be working on Phase III that are trying to make the corrections in Phase II. If they don't finish by June 30<sup>th</sup> they will not get paid. Barbara Howard stated that most companies would have a separate quality assurance group and inquired as to whether PAR did. Seth feels they do not. Barbara felt this was a huge issue. Sally wondered if PAR is expecting Seth to do that work.

**Program Approvals -**

**Motion to authorize the Watershed Agricultural Council to execute a contract for the expenditure of one thousand six hundred dollars (\$1,600) per acre for the purchase of a conservation easement of approximately 230.35 acres on lands included in the whole farm plan under farm number DE-C-165 located in the Pepacton Basin.**

**Acres under easement: 230.35**  
**Appraised "before" value: \$3,050.00/acre**  
**Appraised "after" value: \$1,450.00/acre**  
**Appraised easement value: \$1,600/acre**  
**Total Purchase Price (Approx.): \$368,560**

**Motion: Tom Hutson**  
**Second: Darby Hartwell**  
**Approved**

**Motion to authorize the Watershed Agricultural Council to execute a contract for the expenditure of one thousand four hundred ninety eight dollars (\$1,498) per acre for the purchase of a conservation easement of approximately 346.55 acres on lands included in the whole farm plan under farm number DE-C-225 located in the Cannonsville Basin.**

**Acres under easement: 346.55**  
**Appraised "before" value: \$2,763.00/acre**  
**Appraised "after" value: \$1,265.00/acre**  
**Appraised easement value: \$1,498/acre**  
**Total Purchase Price (Approx.): \$519,131.90**

**Motion: Tom Hutson**  
**Second: Darby Hartwell**  
**Approved**

**Motion to authorize the Watershed Agricultural Council to execute a contract for the expenditure of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) per acre for the purchase of a conservation easement of approximately 151 acres on lands included in the whole farm plan under farm number DE-C-180 located in the Cannonsville Basin.**

**Acres under easement: 151.00**  
**Appraised “before” value: \$2,900.00/acre**  
**Appraised “after” value: \$1,400.00/acre**  
**Appraised easement value: \$1,500/acre**  
**Total Purchase Price (Approx.): \$226,500**

**Motion: Tom Hutson**

**Second: Darby Hartwell**

**Approved**

#### **IV. Chair’s Report – Fred Huneke**

**Endowment Committee** – Fred, Dave, Sally and Craig have met to discuss various aspects of the endowment. The group is now looking for some non-WAC Director Members. Fred will meet with Chris Gatis on December 29<sup>th</sup> to learn his view points and determine if he is willing to serve on this committee.

**Operating Statements** – When approved the distributed Operating Statements would become a simple statement that would replace WAC Committee Charges. The Directors were asked to review and give comments to Fred or Craig before the January meeting.

#### **Directors Only Meeting**

The Directors Only Meeting will be held at the Andes Hotel on January 22, 2010 from 10-3. Fred also announced that he would be out of the country from January 7 through the 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### **V. Governance Committee – Bill Coleman**

Dave Post inquired as to whether the Governance Committee had found someone to serve on the WAC Board with knowledge in Human Resources. Bill stated that he hoped placing John Riedl on the Board would eliminate that problem. John Verhoeven, Barbara and others from the Governance Committee reminded the Board that they agreed to the change in By-Laws for the Executive Committees going from 4 to 3 members at large providing a Human Resources Committee was formed.

**Motion to recommend to the Directors on the recommendation of the Governance Committee that an attendance waiver be granted to Eric Dahlberg for this past year’s Forestry Committee meetings.**

**Motion: Barbara Howard**

**Second: Dave Post**

**Approved**

**The Governance Committee recommends the following slate of Directors to serve January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2011: Dave Cammer, Linda DeWitt, Tom Donnelly, Sally Fairbairn, Darby Hartwell, Barbara Howard, Tom Hutson, Dave Post, John Riedl, and Steve Reed.**

**Motion: Tom Hutson**

**Second: Dave Post**

**Approved**

**Motion to approve the following to serve as WAC Directors from January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2011: Dave Cammer, Linda DeWitt, Tom Donnelly, Sally Fairbairn, Darby Hartwell, Barbara Howard, Tom Hutson, Dave Post, John Riedl, and Steve Reed.**

**Motion: Joe Eisele**

**Second: Richard Giles**

**Unanimously Approved**

**Motion to change the WAC By-Laws to amend the number of Directors serving on the Executive Committee from 8 to 7 on the recommendation of the Governance Committee for a second reading.**

**Motion: Bill Coleman**

**Second: Tom Donnelly**

**Approved**

#### **VI. Finance Committee – Bill Coleman and Thomas Artale**

**Motion to accept the October Financial Statement.**

**Motion: Bill Coleman**

**Second: Dave Cammer**

**Approved**

**Revised Budget** – sub contracted personnel are now listed on “other than personnel”. Bill encouraged everyone to review and contact Thomas if they had any questions before a voting on this budget at the January meeting.

#### **VII. NYC DEP Report – John Schwartz**

A FAD report on CREP has been submitted. One section was the field component and one the survey. Ed will provide the report to anyone who is interested. There was some question by Board Directors as to whether all participants had received the survey.

A consultant was hired by the DEP in January of 2008 to look into gas drilling. A review team is looking at this report and it is hoped an official position will be announced in January or February.

#### **Human Resources – Cheryl Marion**

The EoH forestry position vacated by Andy Hubbard is now on the website. Interviews are scheduled for the Wood Utilization and Marketing Specialist position. 45 applications have been received to date for the Agricultural Program

Managers position. Additional positions recently vacated and now being advertised are for a Nutrient Management Specialist and an Executive Assistant for the Forestry Program.

**USDA NRCS – Leon Brooks**

From the million dollar stimulus funds money will be provided to hire 4 term positions to work in the watershed. 2 planner positions , 1 Resource Conservationist and 1 Engineer. Leon feels the positions will be filled by March 2010. The 2 planner positions usually run for two years and will be NRCS employees conducting planning and implementation.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.