

Minutes of the Watershed Agricultural Council Meeting
February 23, 2010

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

Fred welcomed the new members Steve Reed and John Riedl .

Directors Present:

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

Others Present:

Craig Cashman	Thomas Artale
Cheryl Marion	Jeff Graff

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2010.

Motion: Tom Hutson

Second: Joe Eisele

Approved

III. Conservation Easement Program presentation by Dave Tobias

IV. Executive Director Report – Craig Cashman

Operational Report – WAC received \$39,000 from NYSERDA for monies due.
This is the first installment

Program Reports/Approvals:

PAR Update – Seth Hersh

WAC is in the process of severing the contract. We are now at the end of Phase II but approximately 50 bugs remain in the program. PAR would not be able to complete phase III by the end of June. Seth and James will do the work.
\$100,000 remains in that contract

Easement Program:

Motion to authorize the Watershed Agricultural Council to execute a contract for the expenditure of Two Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-nine Dollars (\$2,589.00) per acre for the purchase of a conservation easement of approximately 149.4 acres on land included in the whole farm plan under farm number DE-P-027 located in the Pepacton Basin.

Acres under easement: 149.4

Appraised “before” value: \$4,339.00/acre

Appraised “after” value: \$1,750.00/acre
Appraised easement value: \$2,589.00/acre
Total Purchase Price Approx: \$386,796.60
Motion: Tom Hutson
Second: Linda DeWitt
Approved

Motion to authorize the Watershed Agricultural Council to execute a contract for the expenditure of one thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$1,250) per acre for the purchase of a conservation easement of approximately 294.8 acres on lands included in the whole farm plan under farm number DE-C-224 located in the Cannonsville Basin.

Acres under easement: 294.8
Appraised “before” value: \$2,550.00/acre
Appraised “after” value: \$1,300.00/acre
Appraised easement value: \$1,250/acre
Total Purchase Price (Approx.): \$368,500
Motion: Tom Hutson
Second: Darby Hartwell
Approved

Motion to authorize the Watershed Agricultural Council to execute a contract for the expenditure of Seven Hundred Twenty-five Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$725,450.00) for the purchase of a conservation easement on land included in the whole farm plan under farm number GR-S-022, located in the Schoharie Basin.

Acres under easement: 131.9
Appraised “before” value: \$10,000.00/acre
Appraised “after” value: \$4,500.00/acre
Appraised easement value: \$5,500.00/acre
Motion: Tom Hutson
Second: Linda DeWitt
Approved

Motion to authorize the Watershed Agricultural Council to execute a contract for the expenditure of Two Hundred Sixty-five Thousand, Nine Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$265,920.00) for the purchase of a conservation easement on land included in the whole farm plan under farm number DE-C-251, located in the Cannonsville Basin.

Acres under easement: 166.2
Appraised “before” value: \$3,000.00/acre
Appraised “after” value: \$1,400.00/acre
Appraised easement value: \$1,600.00/acre
Motion: Tom Hutson
Second: Joe Eisele
Approved

In answer to Dave Cammer's question Jeff Graff stated that his staff was at full capacity regarding their work loads and additional personnel would be needed to steward added easements. Jeff has begun the request process. A conversation ensued as to whether or not the individual easements needed to come before the Board of Directors for approval. Much like the whole farm plans are now approved at Committee level it was thought that the only reason this had not been suggested in the DSA report was because a lot of time had not been spent on the Easement Program due to the issue of unanimous consent.

Motion: The individual easements shall no longer be brought before the WAC Board of Directors for approval but shall be approved at the Committee level after review.

Motion: Dave Cammer

Second: Tom Donnelly

Opposed: Dave Post

Approved

Human Resources –

A decision on an Agricultural Program Manager will be made tomorrow after Craig gleans the opinions of each of the members of the interview committee and makes his decision. An offer will also be made to an applicant for the Nutrient Management position. Interviews are being set up for the EoH Forester position and the Ag Program Executive Assistant resumes are being reviewed.

Finance

Motion to approve Amendment #1 to Contract 376 between the WAC and JESS Engineering adding \$68,500 for services for the period of March 1, 2010 through February 28, 2011.

Motion: Bill Coleman

Second: Dave Cammer

Approved

Motion to approved Amendment #2 to Contract #297 between the WAC and McGrath & Company, Inc. adding \$50,000 for the period of March 16, 2010 through March 15, 2011.

Motion: Tom Hutson

Second: Joe Eisele

Approved

V. Chair's Report – Fred Huneke

Endowment Committee – Fred stated that he will hold the first Endowment Meeting in March. Alan White has agreed to serve and the group is still looking for an additional person.

Policy -

Motion to waive the First Reading of the Farm to Market Policy.

Motion: Richard Giles

Second: Linda DeWitt

Opposed: Dave Cammer

Approved

Motion to approve the Farm to Market Policy.

Motion: Richard Giles

Second: Sally Fairbairn

Approved

The following is a draft template for Policy Procedure: policies shall be approved by the Program Committees and sent to the Executive Committee for review. The responsibility of the Executive Committee (which now serves as the Policy Committee) is to make sure they are in proper format, do not contradict another WAC policy or process, and there is funding available. The Executive Committee may send the policy back to the program Committee but not reword. Wordsmithing will only be done at the Program Committee level. The Executive Committee shall then send the policy to the Board of Directors for their approval. No first readings shall occur. The potential policies shall be mailed in the packets 10 days prior to the Board meeting. If Directors have concerns they must be addressed to the WAC Chair prior to the Council meeting. Discussion shall not occur on the floor of a WAC meeting.

VI. Finance Committee – Bill Coleman and Thomas Artale

Motion to accept the December Financial Statement.

Motion: Bill Coleman

Second: Ken Smith

Approved

Motion to go into Executive Session:

Motion: Bill Coleman

Second: Tom Hutson

Approved

Motion to come out of Executive Session:

Motion: Linda DeWitt

Second: Steve Reed

Approved

Meeting adjourned.