

**Minutes of the Watershed Agricultural Council Meeting**  
March 23, 2010

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

Directors Present:

David Cammer	Fred Huneke
Darby Hartwell	William Coleman
Tom Donnelly	Richard Giles
Sally Fairbairn	Ken Smith
Dave Post	John Verhoeven
Tom Hutson	John Schwartz, NYC DEP
John Riedl	Steve Reed

Directors Absent:

Linda DeWitt	Barbara Howard
Joe Eisele	

Others Present:

Craig Cashman	Thomas Artale
Cheryl Marion	

**II. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2010.**

**Motion: Dave Cammer**

**Second: John Riedl**

**Approved**

**III. Executive Director Report – Craig Cashman**

**Operational Report**

- Easement Contract Negotiations: An update was given from last month's Board discussion with Dave Tobias. Dave had clarified a couple of questions from members (see E.D. Report). Questions were raised regarding the future voting members of the Easement Committee as to whether non-WAC Directors should serve. Craig stated the voting structure will be negotiated in the next contract with Board member input. Richard suggested developing a Stewardship Committee and using the present Easement Committee as the Acquisition Committee. Craig stated that right now the Easement Committee is serving both purposes. Bill

expressed his grave concern regarding the unfunded liability associated with WAC's conservation easements. He felt if WAC can't steward out of the contract and we don't have additional funding this issue is much more serious than unanimous consent. Reversionary appears to be the biggest issue on the table. Sally expressed her desire to see some benchmarks. Fred felt WAC needs a primary person for fundraising and we cannot expect the Executive Director to take on this responsibility. Craig explained how much endowment funding we would have to have set aside in order to continue all aspects of stewardship.

- NYSERDA Grant: Two checks will be forwarded to us. The first check we received for \$39,000 and the second for \$102,000 we are waiting for.
- DSA Report – We will be sending three RFPs to DEP that have implications with regards to the DSA report; Organizational Development, Human Resources review, and Strategic Planning.

#### **Program Reports/Approvals**

- Whole Farm Plan Definition – In an effort to define a “WAC Whole Farm Plan” for the NYC watershed key staff and board members have taken the initiative to customize our definition to function effectively for both our Agricultural and Easement Program. To this end, we have established internally our preliminary definition of a “WAC Whole Farm Plan” which includes the definition, process and content. WAC is soliciting comments from partners, DEP, Action Staff and will bring an updated version to the Ag Committee in April for potential vote by the Council in May.
- Farm to Market – Congratulations on an outstanding Farm to Market Connections event.
- PAR/POTAK update – Progress to date signed contract amendment and severance to only complete Phase II. Savings of approximately \$100,000. WAC will complete Phase III “in house”.

#### **PAR Update – Seth Hersh**

Refer to Seth Hersh's Interoffice Memorandum titled, “POTOK: Phase 3 in-house Development (Revisions) dated 3/23/10.

#### **IV. Human Resources – Cheryl Marion**

Larry Hulle will start work on April 12<sup>th</sup> as the new Agricultural Program Manager. Larry brings with him 22 years with the Cooperative Extension of Orange County. He also worked part-time at the SC CCE during the pilot farm projects. Interviews have been completed for the EoH forester and the position is being offered to one of the candidates. Interviews for the Agricultural Executive Assistant were completed yesterday and reference checks are underway. We are presently advertising for the intern/temp positions.

The staff has been trained to use the defibrillator and a CPR course is being offered to those who wish to participate. Our insurance company has encouraged us to provide a Driver Safety Course to all staff and that will be held on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Any Board Director wishing to participate is encouraged to sign up with Cheryl.

#### **V. Chair's Report – Fred Huneke Endowment Committee –**

The Endowment Committee has approved an operating statement and

committee guidelines. Their next meeting is scheduled for May 24<sup>th</sup>. At the May meeting they will work on developing an RFP for a trustee and then will be choosing a trustee.

**Motion to accept the revised Conflict of Interest Policy.**

**Motion to waive the 10 day rule for the Conflict of Interest Policy since it was presented at the January Directors' Only meeting.**

**Motion: Bill Coleman**

**Second: Tom Hutson**

**Approved**

**Motion to approve the original motion to accept the revised Conflict of Interest Policy.**

**Motion: John Verhoeven**

**Second: Dave Cammer**

**Approved**

See Chair's Report dated March 2010.

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

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

**Motion: Bill Coleman**

**Second: Dave Cammer**

**Approved**

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

The DEP has completed 31 projects on 1, 000 acres with Charlie Laing in charge of active agricultural projects. John reminded the group that there are students at the John Bowne High School who would be interested in serving as “farm cadets” on watershed farms.

**VIII. Other**

Fred stated the next Executive Committee meeting will be April 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.