

# Watershed Agricultural Council

Agriculture ♦ Forestry ♦ Conservation Easements ♦ Economic Viability

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## Executive Committee Meeting November 21, 2023

### I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Tom Hutson

Members Present:      Dave Cammer, via Zoom              Karl Gockel, via Zoom  
                                 Fred Huneke                                      Tom Hutson  
                                 Jennifer Grossman, via Zoom      John Vickers, NYC DEP, via Zoom

Members Absent:      Wayland "Bud" Gladstone

Others Present:      Amy Faulkner                                      Carol Bishop  
                                 Lee Harris, NYC DOI, via Zoom      Cynthia Irizarry, NYC DOI, via Zoom  
                                 Michael VanderWerff, NYC DEP, via Zoom

Bud Gladstone was not present for the meeting, Tom Hutson acted as Chair.

### II. Approval of Minutes

**Motion to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2023 meeting, as presented.**

**Motion: Dave Cammer**

**Second: Fred Huneke**

**Approved**

Cynthia Irizarry, NYC DOI, joined the meeting to report that she will be leaving her position at NYC DOI to take an opportunity in Pennsylvania. She expressed that it has been great working with WAC and that the staff and Board have made a huge impact on her life, and she is thankful that she was able to learn so much. She has a new appreciation for the watershed and the work that WAC does. The immense work that WAC has put into the monitorship has been amazing. The Committee all thanked her and wished her well.

### III. Executive Director's Report

**A. Columbia University MOU:** Amy reported that the MOU with Columbia University for the Addressing Climate Challenges to Agriculture and Water in the New York City Watershed project has been finalized. She added that the kickoff meeting at CWC in Arkville last week was followed by a tour of Karl Gockel and Bud Gladstone's farms on Thursday. Both the workshop and the tour went well. Representatives from WAC, DEP and AgMIP will be meeting biweekly moving forward to stay on track with project progress and logistics.

**B. Bylaw Review by Legal Counsel:** The draft Bylaws with suggestions and comments by WAC's legal counsel were distributed to the committee prior to the meeting. Amy explained that

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the Governance Committee will be reviewing as well. The intention is to have a proposed draft to present to the Council for approval in January or February. There was a brief discussion on the proposed modifications. The Committee will continue to review and present questions to Amy, Ryan or the Governance Committee directly. Amy will ask that the attorneys review the dissolution section to confirm it is consistent with funding agreements, or to ask that they add a statement reference consistency with all funding agreements.

- C. Successor Contract Status Update:** Amy and Michael reported that scope of work discussions and contract negotiations are moving along as scheduled. WAC is currently reviewing the draft Operating Contract received from DEP and plans to have comments back to them in the next two weeks.
- D. Transparency Policy:** Amy reported that WAC's attorneys reviewed the proposed Transparency Policy again last week to confirm they feel comfortable with moving forward as revised. In August the Executive Committee agreed by common consent to forward the policy to Council for review and approval. The Transparency Policy is on the agenda for the November WAC Meeting.
- E. Demolition of Buildings:** The demolition of the buildings on the WAC property has been completed per the specifications. Fred asked what the next steps were in regard to a new WAC facility. Amy responded that Ryan has requested that a meeting of the Building Committee be scheduled; that WAC and DEP will begin those contract discussions once the operating and program contract negotiations are complete; and that the due-to-due-from reconciliation is still being resolved with DEP. WAC submitted its reconciliation and OEA responded with some additional information requests. Carol is working on those requests now.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:39pm.**

**Motion: Dave Cammer**

**Second: John Vickers**

**Approved**