

# Watershed Agricultural Council

Agriculture ♦ Forestry ♦ Conservation Easements ♦ Economic Viability

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## Executive Committee Meeting March 18, 2025

### I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Wayland “Bud” Gladstone.

Members Present:	Wayland “Bud” Gladstone, Chair	Fred Huneke
	Tom Hutson	Marilyn Wyman, via Teams
	Jennifer Grossman, via Teams	Shilo Williams, NYC DEP, via Teams
	Karl Gockel	

Others Present:	Ryan Naatz	Amy Faulkner
	Alex Racketa, HH&K, via Teams	Steve Reed, via Teams
	Dudley Harris, NYC DOI via Teams	Michael Vander Werff, NYC DEP, via Teams

Bud asked if there were any changes to the agenda, none were noted.

### II. Approval of Minutes

**Motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2025 meeting, as presented.**

**Motion: Fred Huneke**

**Second: Tom Hutson**

**Approved**

### III. Executive Director’s Report

The majority of Ryan’s report will be in Executive Session which will include legal and participant challenges, human resource updates and reports, employee schedule options and primary subcontracts and sublease. Alex Racketa is joining today for the Transparency Policy discussion.

### IV. Chair’s Report

#### A. Transparency Policy

Ryan explained that WAC’s legal counsel, Alex Racketa joined today to discuss the proposed modifications to the Transparency Policy. Based on discussions at the meeting last month, Alex provided an updated draft policy to the group. Fred requested to further discuss the additional language requiring the requestor state the purpose of the request as he feels it is extremely important that WAC retain the ability to deny in its sole discretion if the request is made to harass or burden WAC, or is made in bad faith. To that point the group discussed that it is necessary to outline some parameters, outline the basis for a request to be determined to be in bad faith. Alex added that if that provision remains, it would be more palatable if the policy included objective criteria that would be utilized to determine if the request was meant to harass or burden WAC.

Ryan again explained the history of the side agreement, water supply permit and the obligations WAC subsequently agreed to in the CAT 403 and successor SWP-118 contract that commits to a Transparency Policy that is at least as protective of public access to information as the 2010 Transparency Policy. Alex and DEP legal counsel are going to connect after this meeting to review and discuss the proposed policy language to ensure that it meets the contractual requirements. An updated draft will be proposed at the April Executive Committee meeting. Jennifer has

some minor formatting edits she would like to suggest, she will connect with Alex directly.

**B. Executive Session**

**Motion to enter into Executive Session**

**Motion: Tom Hutson**

**Second: Karl Gockel**

**Approved**

**Motion to come out of Executive Session**

**Motion: Karl Gockel**

**Second: Tom Hutson**

**Approved**

**C. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned by common consent at 12:36pm. Next meeting will be held April 15, 2025.