

# Watershed Agricultural Council

Agriculture ♦ Forestry ♦ Conservation Easements ♦ Economic Viability

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## Executive Committee Meeting May 20, 2025

### I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Wayland “Bud” Gladstone.

|                  |                                          |                              |
|------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Members Present: | Wayland “Bud” Gladstone, Chair           | Fred Huneke                  |
|                  | Tom Hutson, via Teams                    | Jennifer Grossman, via Teams |
|                  | Karl Gockel                              | Marilyn Wyman, via Teams     |
|                  | Michael Vander Werff, NYC DEP, via Teams |                              |

|                 |                       |                                  |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Others Present: | Ryan Naatz            | Amy Faulkner                     |
|                 | Steve Reed, via Teams | Dudley Harris, NYC DOI via Teams |
|                 | Connor Young          | Kayla Henderson                  |
|                 | Carol Bishop          |                                  |

Bud Gladstone asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were none.

### II. Approval of Minutes

**Motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2025 meeting, as presented.**

**Motion: Fred Huneke**

**Second: Karl Gockel**

**Approved**

### III. Introduction of New Staff

Ryan Naatz introduced Kayla Henderson as Head of Administration of WAC to the Committee.

### IV. Executive Director’s Report

#### A. Columbia/AgMIP Project SOW Proposal

Ryan Naatz reported updates from an e-mail distributed May 5 notifying that Federal funding appears to be secure. As of May 1, authorization was granted for restoration planning; at this time, it is unclear what this will entail. Discussion ensued regarding whether to move forward. Ryan commented that relative to the ‘program pitch’, it is unclear whether food production is feasible. Concerns were discussed regarding the lack of tangible deliverables being presented thus far on the project as well as communication and reporting. The Committee majority prefer to have a more routine progress report supplied and request that if/when funds are restored, a representative from Columbia be available to present and answer questions to the Council as was initially planned for back at the April meeting.

**B. IT Security/Communications Plan**

Amy Faulkner reported on new vendor initiatives from 'Logically' who is subcontracted (as of April 1) to assist with network management and storage security needs. Details were discussed regarding audit findings. Effective July 1, a multi-factor authorization protocol will be implemented on password strength improvement. In addition, Council members will be assigned a WAC e-mail account as part of the security improvement plan that Logically is assisting in drafting. Questions were asked and discussion ensued regarding the handling of any prior outside hack threats. E-mail transition assistance for Council members will be available.

**V. Chair's Report**

**A. Transparency Policy Update (Effective May 23)**

Minor modifications have been recently incorporated. WAC encourages its participants and constituents to review its policies and provide constructive feedback. A draft of WAC's transparency policy was posted to the Internet page for a 30-day public review/comment. To date, there have been no comments/suggestions provided.

**VI. Executive Session**

**Motion to enter into Executive Session at 10:40 a.m.**

**Motion: Fred Huneke**

**Second: Karl Gockel**

**Approved**

**Motion to come out of Executive Session**

**Motion: Fred Huneke**

**Second: Karl Gockel**

**Approved**

**Motion to approve a 3% FY26 Base Annual Salary Adjustment as presented, and recommend Council ratify during the review and approval of the FY26 Organizational Budget.**

**Motion: Marilyn Wyman**

**Second: Fred Huneke**

**Approved**

**Motion to approve the Compensation Adjustment Guideline Edits as presented.**

**Motion: Karl Gockel**

**Second: Tom Hutson**

**Approved**

**VII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned by common consent at 12:00pm. Next meeting to be held **June 17, 2025**.