



MINUTES OF THE EASEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

November 5, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Hutson, *Committee Chair*
Paul Gallay, via Teams
Wayland 'Bud' Gladstone
Jennifer Grossman, via Teams
Fred Huneke
Michael Vander Werff, *NYC DEP*, via Teams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ryan Naatz, *Executive Director*
Amy Faulkner, *Director of Operations*, via Teams
Serena Orleski, *Easement Program Manager*
Rebecca Morgan, *Land Protection Coordinator*
Mike Morales, *Easement Program Stewardship Coordinator*
Dennis Heinz, *Land Conservation Systems Specialist*
Matt Schaefer, *Land Conservation Stewardship Specialist*
Julian Motola, *Land Conservation Stewardship Specialist*
Troy Bookhout, *Easement Program Conservation Planner*
Kayla Atanasoff, *Easement Program Executive Assistant*
Morgan Tarbell, *NYS DOH*, via Teams

PUBLIC ATTENDEES:

Sean Leddy, *Delaware County Planning*, via Teams
Nick Carbone, *Delaware County Watershed Affairs*, via Teams

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the Minutes of the October 1, 2025 public meeting of the Easement Committee.

Motion: Fred Huneke

Second: Jennifer Grossman

Motion Carried

III. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

A. Solicitation Efforts – *added as a discussion item in Executive Session*

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT/PROGRAM MOTIONS

None

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Economic Viability Grant Opportunities – Kristan Morley

Kristan gave a presentation on the current grant opportunities that the Economic Viability Program has to offer farm and forest landowners – with particular attention to the Farms and Forests in Transition Grant. This grant provides financial support for estate, succession and financial planning of operations within the West-of-Hudson watershed. She outlined some shared goals between the Easement and Economic Viability Programs, and some suggestions for better outcomes for participation. Serena shared some of her thoughts and invited Committee Members to give their input as part of a roundtable discussion of ideas, for more effective engagement.

VI. STEWARDSHIP MOTIONS

None

VII. STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

A. Barbara MacDonald (PID 6074): Forest Harvest Plan (FHP) – Staff Approval

Matt presented this update. He explained that the landowner is enrolled in the 480a Forest Tax Law and the approved harvest is for prescribed stand thinning as part of a forest management plan. The total harvest area is 31 acres in size, with several seep crossings. He addressed the Best Management Practices (BMPs) that should be implemented during and following the harvest. The work is planned to begin this winter with Hank Decker and Sons harvesting under the direction of Rod Jones with Northeast Timber Services.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IX-XI)

Motion at 10:07 a.m. to go into Executive Session to discuss Violations/Legal Updates, Acquisition Project Motions/Updates, and Other Business.

Motion: Jennifer Grossman

Second: Fred Huneke

Motion Carried

Motion at 10:54 a.m. to come out of Executive Session.

Motion: Bud Gladstone

Second: Fred Huneke

Motion Carried

IX. VIOLATIONS/LEGAL UPDATES

- A. (PID 6262): Structure in the RPA Violation

X. ACQUISITION PROJECT MOTIONS/UPDATES (*MOTIONS IN PUBLIC MEETING*)

ACE Project Motions

None

FCE Project Motions

- A. (PID 6322): Approval of Final Documents

Motion to approve final easement, BDR, title insurance, survey, and ESA for PID 6322 conservation easement project.

Motion: Bud Gladstone

Second: Jennifer Grossman

Motion Carried

Updates

None

XI. DISCUSSION/OTHER BUSINESS

- A. (PID 6600): Amendment Update
- B. 2025 Q3 Easement Program Quarterly Report
- C. Solicitation Efforts

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m., via Teams**