

# Watershed Agricultural Council

Agriculture ♦ Forestry ♦ Conservation Easements ♦ Economic Viability

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## **MINUTES OF THE (QUARTERLY) WATERSHED AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**August 25, 2026**

**(\*In Person and via MS 'Teams')**

### **Directors Present:**

Wayland 'Bud' Gladstone, *Chair*  
Jennifer Grossman, *Secretary*  
Karl Gockel, *Treasurer (via 'Teams')*  
Fred Huneke  
Steve Reed  
Marilyn Wyman  
Michael Vander Werff, *NYC DEP*  
Jason Helmbold  
Barbara Hanselman (*via 'Teams'*)  
Tom Hutson, *Vice Chair*  
Paul Gallay  
Kyle Clark, (*via 'Teams'*)  
James Darling

### **Directors Absent:**

Nancy Wyncoop  
John Verhoeven

### **Others Present:**

Ryan Naatz, *Executive Director*  
Carol Bishop, *Director of Finance*  
Amy Faulkner, *Director of Operations*  
Connor Young, *WOH Agricultural Program Manager*  
Serena Orleski, *Easement Program Manager*  
Kristan Morley, *Economic Viability Program Manager*  
Tom Pavlesich, *Forestry Program Manager*  
Heather Magnan, *Communications Manager*  
Kayla Henderson, *Head of Administration*  
Justin Seelaus, *EOH Ag Program Manager (via 'Teams')*  
Sara Storrer, *NYC DEP*  
Adam Bosch, *NYC DEP*  
Kristina Gutches, *NYC DEP*  
Shilo Williams, *NYC DEP*  
Patrick Palmer, *NYS DOH*  
Morgan Zyzik-Tarbell, *NYS DOH*  
Lillian Browne, *The Reporter*  
Bruce Dolph, *DC SWCD Board (via 'Teams')*  
Zack Metzger, *NYS Ag Mediation Program (via 'Teams')*

## **I. Meeting called to order at 10:08 a.m.**

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2026, meeting as presented.**

Motion: Marilyn Wyman

Second: Fred Huneke

***Approved***

## **III. Executive Director's Report – Ryan Naatz**

### **A. Communications Spotlight Presentation: WAC Website & Branding Updates – Heather Magnan**

Heather Magnan worked with Radish Lab, a creative design agency that specializes in assisting organizations create quality, user-friendly websites that are aesthetically pleasing and functional. Heather provided a visual overview of WAC's new website pages and confirmed that site visit traffic has increased since the new role out. Council commended Heather's hard work and efforts, even commenting on the visual appeal of WAC's new logo decals that have been implemented on all the fleet vehicles.

**B. NYSAMP Introductory Presentation – Zack Metzger, Outreach Consulting Director**

Zack Metzger introduced himself as an American Farm Trust (AFT) participant, an easement holder, and farmer. He is a farming mediator and Outreach Director at the New York State Agricultural Mediation Program (NYSAMP), providing members of the New York agricultural community with tools to identify and create their own solutions to their challenges and conflicts. The program is federally funded through the USDA Farm Bill to provide mediation to producers (*someone who generates at least \$1k annually from selling agricultural products*), with 18 CDRC's available across the state. Details provided included the programs available services, what types of cases they assist with, and different methods of how to approach a conflict. NYSAMP is neutral, impartial, and at no cost to farmers/landowners. Mediation is voluntary and confidential, handling individual and community-related cases. Contact and website information was supplied at the end of the presentation, noting that a workshop activity will be conducted with the Council during the Executive session portion of the meeting. Questions from the Council were discussed at length.

**IV. Chair's Report – Wayland "Bud" Gladstone**

The Executive Committee met on August 4 on a dispute resolution ruling regarding an unhappy program participant; details were discussed.

**VI. Finance Committee – Karl Gockel**

A summary was provided on June 30, 2026, preliminary financial statements. The total asset balance was lower this year due to a switch over on some contracts. Payments are on track and submissions have been received. Additionally, WAC has received payment for the endowment.

**Approval of June 30, 2026, Preliminary Financial Statements**

**Motion to approve the June 30, 2026, preliminary financial statements as presented.**

Motion: Paul Galla

Second: Jim Darling

***Approved***

**XIII. 'The Future of Filtration Avoidance (DEP 'White Paper') Presentation – Adam Bosch**

Adam Bosch, Acting Executive Director, Strategic Operations/Research, presented to the Council on the future of filtration avoidance, a special white paper on FAD risks and strategic actions. This recognizes a fresh assessment of challenges, risks, and regulatory changes that threaten filtration avoidance in the future, setting the stage for upcoming FAD negotiations. This includes expert consultation to validate better understanding of the biggest risks to filtration avoidance, recognizing 30 years of success, and to sharpen the focus on current and emerging challenges while also focusing discussion on decisions that are scientifically rigorous and fiscally responsible. Adam highlighted details included in the FAD white paper process, its contents, key findings, compliance parameters and risks, the challenge of Disinfection Byproducts (DBP's), increasing risks with climate change and regulatory challenges, strategic actions, and evaluation framework for filtration avoidance efforts. Questions raised by the Council were discussed.

**XV. Executive Session**

**Motion to enter Executive Session at 12:08 p.m.**

Motion: Steve Reed

Second: Tom Hutson

***Approved***

**Motion to come out of Executive Session at 1:10 p.m.**

Motion: Paul Gallay

Second: Steve Reed

***Approved***

**XVII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m. by common consent.

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for **September 22, 2026**, at 10:00 a.m., via Teams.

*Jennifer Grossman*

09 / 25 / 2026

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Jennifer Grossman, WAC Board Secretary

Date

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