

Watershed Agricultural Council

Agriculture ♦ Forestry ♦ Conservation Easements ♦ Economic Viability

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Executive Committee Meeting October 15, 2024

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Wayland “Bud” Gladstone.

Members Present:	Wayland “Bud” Gladstone, Chair	Fred Huneke, via Teams
	Tom Hutson	Marilyn Wyman
	Jennifer Grossman, via Teams	Karl Gockel
Members Absent:	Shilo Williams, NYC DEP	
Others Present:	Ryan Naatz	Amy Faulkner
	Connor Young	Steve Reed, via Teams
	Michael Vander Werff, NYC DEP	Dudley Harris, NYC DOI, via Teams
	Colm Ryan	

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2024 meetings, as presented.

Motion: Tom Hutson

Second: Karl Gockel

Approved

III. Dispute Resolution Request

Colm Ryan submitted a dispute resolution request per WAC’s policy and attended the meeting. Bud Gladstone invited Colm to address the Executive Committee. Colm explained that his primary purpose for attending the meeting today was to answer any questions that the Committee members may have when considering his dispute resolution request. The Committee discussed the dispute with Colm at length; in short the dispute is the concern that WAC’s practice of not including BMP implementation dates in the whole farm plan documents is not in-line with its policy. Karl Gockel explained that WAC will be updating the Agricultural Program Guidelines to reflect the change in practice and confirmed that the modifications to the guideline should have been captured at the time the practice was modified. This modification to the guideline is expected to be completed by the end of this calendar year. Colm requested that WAC consider rather than modifying the policy to conform with the practice, modify the practice to conform with the guideline as he feels it makes it extremely difficult for participants to plan accordingly if they are given no indication of a general timeline for implementation, even if it was as general as a year.

The Committee again explained that WAC would be modifying its guideline to mirror the practice and will not be including implementation dates in whole farm plan documents. In response, Colm requested WAC’s ‘Cumulative list of BMPs’ prioritized, so that he is able to see where his BMPs are in relation to the portfolio of BMPs and determine an estimated year of implementation, with the understanding that the list is a fluid list. Karl Gockel responded that the Committee would consider Colm’s request for the cumulative list as outlined.

IV. Executive Session

Motion to go into Executive Session.

Motion: Karl Gockel

Second: Tom Hutson

Approved

Colm Ryan left the meeting at this time.

Motion to come out of Executive Session.

Motion: Tom Hutson

Second: Karl Gockel

Approved

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by common consent at 11:16am.