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NEWS from the CWC

CWC welcomes new Board members, recounts 2011 achievements

MARGARETVILLE, N.Y., April 9, 2012– The Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) welcomed a new board member at its 15th Annual Meeting of Member Towns April 3 in Margaretville.

Robert Pelham, a councilman on the Windham Town Board, was elected to the CWC Board by Greene County’s Watershed Town Supervisors, succeeding Paul Dibbell of Hunter who had been on the Board since 2000.

Greene County Watershed Town Supervisors also elected Steve Jacobs of Jewett to the CWC Board, but he declined to accept the post. Michael Flaherty of Jewett, who retained his seat in 2011 when a newly-elected Greene County representative also declined the post, thus once again retains his seat while a special election is held. An immediate special election is being held and results of mailed balloting will be announced at the July 3 CWC Board meeting.

Michael Triolo, Supervisor of the Town of Stamford, was elected to the Board by Delaware County colleagues, replacing Leonard Utter, a CWC Board member since 2008. Triolo who retired as a CWC senior staff member at the end of December, was lauded for his work as Economic Development Director for the past nine years.

Two other Delaware County representatives, Tina Mole of Bovina and Wayne Marshfield of Hamden, were re-elected to the CWC Board.

Officers of the newly seated Board are President Georgianna Lepke of Neversink, First Vice President Berndt Leifeld of Olive, Secretary Donald “Mike” Brandow of Gilboa and Treasurer James Eisel of Harpersfield.

Program achievements

At the Annual Meeting, the CWC staff provided an overview of CWC activities and accomplishments during 2011. They included:

- Completion of the Ashland wastewater treatment plant and collection system, and installation of half of the 90 property connections
- Progress on designs of wastewater systems in Lexington, South Kortright and Trout Creek
- Completion of 11 stormwater control projects, including a multi-faceted retrofit project at the Mountaintop Library and Learning Center, which includes porous pavement, rain gardens and other innovations; and an array of treatment systems installed to control runoff at the new Robinson Terrace assisted living facility in Stamford.
- Repair and/or replacement of 227 residential septic systems in 31 of 41 towns in the New York City Watershed West of the Hudson River (WOH). Another 112 homeowners were reimbursed half the cost of pumping and

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inspecting their on-site systems through the CWC's Septic maintenance Program.

- Replacement of septic systems under the Small Business Septic Repair Program: Sweet Sue's restaurant in Phoenicia and the veterinary office of Dr. Dan Sullivan in Grand Gorge.
- Completion of a storage facility for road de-icing materials at Delaware Valley Hospital in Walton
- Award of 22 Watershed Education Grants totaling \$123,000 to schools and organizations serving students and teachers in the WOH Watershed and in New York City.

Total program expenditures in 2011 came to \$15.9 million, most of which was circulated among contractors, suppliers, businesses and community organizations throughout the 1600-square-mile region where the CWC works.

Economic development

In addition to programmatic expenditures, the CWC, through its Economic Development program, distributed millions more in loans and support for special projects.

Fifteen low-interest REDI Loans totaling \$5.1 million were provided to businesses large and small in Watershed Towns. These loans, which leveraged an additional \$8 million, are expected to save or create 128 jobs.

Several special projects funded in part by the Catskill Fund for the Future (CFF) were completed in 2011: the historic Delaware Inn was renovated and put on the market to stimulate the business district of downtown Stamford; the three-year Cannonsville Reservoir Pilot Boating Program was made permanent and was expanded to three more New York City reservoirs in the Catskills; the enlarged Daniel Pierce Library in Grahamsville opened; and a grant to support the Green Concierge Project, which has trained dozens of Watershed lodging establishments in the use of low-impact practices, was concluded.

Ongoing CFF-funded projects include the Catskills Grass Bio-Energy Project, the redevelopment of the Ashokan Center in Olivebridge, and renovations to the Mountaintop Library and Learning Center in Tannersville as well as the E-Center in Margaretville.

Flood response

In addition to its regular programs the CWC staff spent several weeks cleaning the corporation's Margaretville offices after Tropical Storm Irene left 17 inches of water and mud in the building on August 28.

Economic Development and administrative staff also carried out the Board's directives in initiating a Business Flood Recovery Program, awarding 138 grants totaling well over \$2 million. These grants assisted businesses in 11 towns severely impacted by flood waters.

In December of 2011, the Board also launched a grant program to help streamside property owners and municipalities clear flood debris from streambanks and flood plains.

These and other CWC activities are detailed in the 2011 Annual Report which may be found on the Corporation's website, www.cwconline.org. Hard copies may be obtained by calling 845-586-1400.