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NEWS from the CWC

CWC recounts 2012 achievements

MARGARETVILLE, N.Y., April 4, 2013– The Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) held its 16th Annual Meeting of member towns April 2 when results of Director elections were announced and 2012 achievements were recounted.

Berndt Leifeld, Supervisor of the Town of Olive and one of two Ulster County representatives on the CWC Board, was reelected to a four-year term in balloting among ten fellow Ulster County Watershed Supervisors. Donald “Mike” Brandow, Supervisor of the Town of Conesville, was also re-elected. There are four Supervisors of Schoharie County Watershed Towns.

Officers of the Board for 2013-14 are President Georgianna Lepke of Neversink, First Vice President Berndt Leifeld of Olive, Second Vice President Robert Pelham of Windham, Treasurer James Eisel of Harpersfield and Secretary Brandow,

Program achievements

At the Annual Meeting, staff members provided an overview of CWC activities and accomplishments during 2012. They included:

- Completion of 80 property connections to the Ashland wastewater treatment system, commencement of construction on the Trout Creek Community Wastewater Management Project, and progress on designs of wastewater systems in Lexington and South Kortright.
- Completion of seven stormwater control projects, in Andes, Mt. Tremper, Walton, Kortright, Delhi and Woodstock
- Repair and/or replacement of 292 residential septic systems throughout the New York City Watershed West of the Hudson River (WOH). Another 153 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 two septic systems for businesses: Rocco's Steakhouse and Speakeasy in Shandaken, and Stone Tavern Farm in Roxbury
- Award of 22 Watershed Education Grants totaling just under \$120,000 to schools and organizations serving students and teachers in the WOH Watershed and in New York City.

A temporary program to help property owners and municipalities remove debris left in streams by Tropical Storm Irene in August of 2011 was completed in 2012. Eighty-seven projects were approved for reimbursement.

Total program expenditures in 2012 came to \$14 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 flood damaged businesses and for special projects.

The Business Flood Recovery Program distributed a total of 150 grants totaling more than \$3 million to help commercial enterprises get back in operation following the 2011 storm.

Ten low-interest REDI Loans totaling \$2.7 million were provided to businesses large and small in Watershed Towns. These loans, which leveraged an additional \$1.4 million, are expected to save or create 58 jobs.

Among special projects funded by the Catskill Fund for the Future (CFF) was the expansion of the New York City Reservoir Recreational Boating program. The CWC supported boat cleaning vendors, portable toilet rentals, and brochure production. Nearly 1,000 boaters enjoyed the Pepacton, Neversink, Schoharie and Cannonsville Reservoirs last season. For details, visit www.thecatskillregion.com.

Another of the special projects supported by the CFF was the redevelopment of the Ashokan Center in Olivebridge, completed in late 2012. A new, energy efficient campus has been sited above the Esopus Creek with assistance from the NYC Department of Environmental Protection which uses the valley as a release outlet for the Ashokan Reservoir.

The eCenter in Margaretville, a project of the Catskill Development Foundation, was also supported by the CWC. It expects to welcome its first business tenants soon.

Ongoing CFF-funded projects include the Catskills Grass Bio-Energy Project, the extension of broadband service by Margaretville Telephone Co. into southern Schoharie County, and renovations to the Mountaintop Library and Learning Center in Tannersville.

Special educational activities sponsored by the CWC in 2012 included professional development workshops for engineers, septic designers and contractors; training for municipal officials and planners; a disaster preparation seminar for community leaders and agency representatives; and three free performances of Arm-of-the-Sea Theater's "City That Drinks the Mountain Sky," which brought the development of the NYC water system to life for more than 300 people.

These and other CWC activities are detailed in the 2012 Annual Report which may be found on the Corporation's redesigned website, www.cwconline.org. Hard copies may be obtained by calling 845-586-1400.