

NEWS from the Catskill Watershed Corp

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New Board member introduced at CWC Annual Meeting

MARGARETVILLE, N.Y., April 4, 2013– The Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) held its 17th Annual Meeting of member towns April 1 when results of Director elections were announced and 2013 achievements were recounted.

Mark McCarthy, Supervisor of the Town of Neversink, became the sole Sullivan County representative on the CWC Board following balloting by the supervisors of the three towns in the county with land in the NYC Watershed. McCarthy will complete the remaining year of the unexpired term of Georgianna Lepke who retired last fall.

Three Delaware County Board members – Marty Donnelly of Andes, Jim Eisel of Harpersfield, and Tom Hynes of Roxbury -- were re-elected to four-year terms.

Officers of the Board for 2014-15 are President Michael Triolo of Stamford, First Vice President Berndt Leifeld of Olive, Second Vice President Robert Pelham of Windham, Treasurer Eisel and Secretary Donald “Mike” Brandow of Conesville.

Program achievements

At the Annual Meeting, staff members provided an overview of CWC activities during 2013. The Annual Report may be found at www.cwconline.org. Hard copies may be obtained by calling 845-586-1400, or emailing Galusha@cwconline.org.

The report describes a number of program accomplishments:

- Completion of the collection system for the Trout Creek Community Wastewater Management Project. Connections to more than 50 buildings will begin this spring. Design is nearly complete for a wastewater system which will serve 55 property owners in South Kortright.
- Completion of stormwater control projects in Andes, Windham, Prattsville, and Hunter
- Repair and/or replacement of 275 residential septic systems throughout the New York City Watershed West of the Hudson River (WOH). Another 178 homeowners were reimbursed half the cost of pumping and inspecting their on-site systems through the CWC's Septic Maintenance Program.
- Award of 22 Watershed Education Grants totaling \$117,000 to schools and organizations serving students and teachers in the WOH Watershed and in New York City.

Total program expenditures in 2012 came to \$13.8 million, most of which was circulated among contractors, suppliers, businesses and community organizations throughout the five-county, 1600-square-mile region where the CWC works.

Economic Development

The CWC's Economic Development program distributed millions more in loans and support for businesses and for special projects.

Eleven low-interest REDI Loans totaling \$1.5 million were provided to enterprises in Watershed Towns. These loans, which leveraged \$591,000, are expected to save or create 80 jobs.

Grants totaling \$46,600 were awarded to five non-profit organizations damaged in the 2011 floods spawned by Tropical Storm Irene. These grants were in addition to flood

recovery funds provided to 150 Watershed businesses in the year following the disaster.

A special program was authorized to fund extensions of municipal sewer systems to accommodate businesses that move out of flood prone areas in 17 named hamlets. The pilot project for this new program was completed in Fleischmanns in 2013.

The CWC, through its Catskill Fund for the Future (CFF), continued to support the New York City Reservoir Recreational Boating program in 2013 by renting portable toilets for launch sites, printing brochures and purchasing boat racks for use by commercial vendors.

Special educational activities sponsored by the CWC in 2013 included a professional development workshop for engineers, septic designers and contractors; two training sessions and the annual Local Government Day for municipal officials and planners; and two 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 hundreds of people in Delhi and Olive.

The CWC is a non-profit, Local Development Corporation responsible for several environmental protection, economic development and education programs in the New York City Watershed West of the Hudson River. Visit www.cwconline.org for more information.

