

# **NEWS** from the Catskill Watershed Corp

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## **CWC's 2014 achievements recounted at 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

MARGARETVILLE, N.Y., April 9, 2015— The Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) held its 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of member towns April 7 when results of Director elections were announced and 2014 achievements were recounted.

Re-elected to four-year terms on the Board of Directors were Town Supervisors Mark McCarthy of Neversink, Sullivan County and Innes Kasanof of Halcott, Greene County, and Ulster County Legislator Richard Parete.

Officers of the Board for 2015-16 are President Michael Triolo of Stamford, First Vice President Berndt Leifeld of Olive, Second Vice President Robert Pelham of Windham, Treasurer James Eisel of Harpersfield and Secretary Donald "Mike" Brandow of Gilboa.

### **Program achievements**

At the Annual Meeting, staff members provided an overview of CWC activities during 2014.

- The Trout Creek community wastewater system serving 50 buildings was completed. Construction began in late 2014 on a community system in the hamlet of Lexington, and preparations have been made for the 2015 start of construction of a wastewater project in South Kortright.
- Funding was approved for ten stormwater control projects throughout the Watershed
- 244 failed residential septic systems were repaired or replaced. Another 209 homeowners were reimbursed half the cost of pumping and inspecting their on-site systems through the CWC's Septic Maintenance Program.
- 28 Watershed Education Grants totaling \$170,000 were awarded to schools and organizations serving students, teachers and the general public
- A new program, developed in tandem with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and several other state and county agencies, was approved to provide funding for flood mitigation projects. Funded by the City, the CWC's new Flood Hazard Mitigation Implementation Program will accept applications in June and December 2015.
- The Sustainable Communities Program was established to provide planning grants to communities seeking to identify areas to relocate flood-threatened residences.

Total program expenditures in 2014 came to more than \$12.3 million, most of which was circulated among contractors, suppliers, engineering firms and community organizations.

### **Economic Development**

Ten low-interest REDI Loans totaling approximately \$2 million were provided to enterprises in Watershed Towns. These loans from the Catskill Fund for the Future (CFF) leveraged \$800,000 in other capital.

The CFF continued to support the New York City Reservoir Recreational Boating program in 2014, in partnership with the NYC DEP which issued 827 boating permits for canoes, kayaks and sailboats on four of its West of Hudson reservoirs.

The Catskill Interpretive Center, under construction in the Town of Shandaken, also

received support from the CWC, which will fund an interactive digital display, create a replica ranger's cabin and help with operation and maintenance costs. The Mt. Tremper visitors center is expected to open this summer.

Special educational activities sponsored by the CWC in 2014 included three professional development seminars for engineers, septic designers and contractors, and three training sessions for municipal officials and planners.

The Annual Report may be found at [www.cwconline.org](http://www.cwconline.org). Hard copies may be obtained by calling 845-586-1400, or emailing [galusha@cwconline.org](mailto:galusha@cwconline.org).

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.

