

NEWS from the Catskill Watershed Corp

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CWC environmental rep steps down

MARGARETVILLE, January 7, 2016: Deborah DeWan, who has represented the environmental community on the Catskill Watershed Corporation's Board of Directors since the CWC was established in 1997, has stepped down from the post.

DeWan was lauded by fellow Board members for her commitment to the Watershed and the CWC, and for her respectful manner in discussions about sometimes controversial issues. She became involved in negotiations between New York City, Watershed municipalities and the environmental community in 1994, three years before the New York City Watershed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) creating the CWC was signed in 1997.

"It has been a remarkable experience," DeWan commented at the Board's monthly meeting in Margaretville January 5. "It's been an honor to have had the opportunity to play a role in the formative years of this organization, and to see it come this far."

She cited the responsibilities of her job as Executive Director of Rondout Valley Growers and with other organizations with which she is associated, as the reason for her departure from the CWC Board, effective immediately. "This role created at the outset has helped shaped the implementation of this historic agreement, and a lot has been accomplished," DeWan said. "It's important for that voice to continue to be at the table." She added, "And with everyone working together the CWC will achieve even more."

The CWC Board is made up of 15 people. Twelve of them are locally elected officials from the Catskill-Delaware New York City Watershed. One Board member is appointed by the Mayor of the City of New York. The Governor appoints two people -- one to represent the State's interests, and the other a person chosen by the five environmental groups who signed the MOA. Those organizations will nominate a replacement for DeWan to be appointed by the Governor.

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. www.cwconline.org