

CATSKILL WATERSHED CORPORATION

Annual Board of Directors Meeting

MINUTES

April 7, 2015 @ 1:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call of Directors

Members Present: Donald Brandow, Deborah Meyer DeWan, Martin Donnelly, James Eisel, Emily Lloyd, Commissioner (*New York City DEP*), Thomas Hynes, Innes Kasanof, Berndt Leifeld, Mark McCarthy, Wayne Marshfield, Tina Molé, Richard Parete, Robert Pelham, Thomas Snow (*New York State DEC*), and Michael Triolo.

Members Excused: None

Staff Members Present: Kimberly Ackerley, Timothy Cox, Diane Galusha, Todd Henderson, Nathaniel Hendricks, John Jacobson, Larry Kelly, Leo LaBuda, Wendy Loper, James Martin, Jason Merwin, Barbara Puglisi, Alan L. Rosa, Charlie Schafer, Phil Sireci, and Frieda Suess.

Others Present: Ursula Basch (*NYS Department of Economic Development*), Aaron Bennet (*Ulster County Department of Environment*), Martin Brand, Region 3 Director (*New York State DEC*), Clayton Brooks (*Former CWC Board Member*), David Brooks, Supervisor (*Town of Denning*), Paula Brown (*Congressman Chris Gibson's Office*), Diana Cope, Mayor (*Village of Margaretville*), Paul Dibbell (*Former CWC Board Member*), Peg Ellsworth, Executive Director (*M-Ark Project*), Michael Flaherty (*Former CWC Board Member*), Jeff Graf, Chief (*New York City DEP*), Jeff Hanlon, Researcher (*University of Arizona*), Bill Harding, Executive Director (*New York State Department of State Watershed Protection and Partnership Council*), Henry Lamont (*Lamont Engineers*), Paul Lenz (*New York City DEP*), Assemblyman Peter Lopez (*New York State*), Robert McLaughlin (*Hodgson Russ LLP*), Lisa Melville, Watershed Programs Coordinator (*New York State Department of State Watershed Protection and Partnership Council*), Michael Meyer (*New York City DEP*), Marjorie Miller, Supervisor (*Town of Middletown*), Tomas Olivier, Researcher (*University of Arizona*), Sylvia Rozzelle, Supervisor (*Town of Olive*), Bill Rudge, Region 4 Director (*New York State DEC*), Dan Ruzow, Outside Counsel to CWC (*Whiteman Osterman & Hanna*), Senator Jim Seward (*New York State*), Carl Stuendel, Chairman (*Coalition of Watershed Towns*), James Tierney, Assistant Commissioner (*New York State DEC*), Leonard Utter (*Former CWC Board Member*), David Warne (*New York City DEP*), and Alan White, Executive Director (*Catskill Center for Conservation and Development*).

IV. Staff Presentation of 2014 Accomplishments

Diane Galusha, CWC Director of Communications, made a PowerPoint presentation, with CWC staff members Barbara Puglisi, Nathan Hendricks, Kimberlie Ackerly, and Leo LaBuda, summarizing the CWC accomplishments over the past year in the different program areas that CWC administers..

Board of Directors Election Results

Donald “Mike” Brandow announced the election results for one seat in Greene County, one seat in Sullivan County and one seat in Ulster County. Innes Kasanof (Greene), Mark McCarthy (Sullivan) and Richard Parete (Ulster) were reelected to the CWC Board of Directors.

Mike Triolo welcomed them back.

V. Election of Officers:

A motion to approve Resolution No. 2636 was made by Richard Parete and seconded by Innes Kasanof.

April 7, 2015

RESOLUTION NO. 2636

ELECT OFFICERS OF THE CATSKILL WATERSHED CORPORATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 1 of the by-laws of the Catskill Watershed Corporation (“CWC”) provide for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to CWC Resolution Number 2, the Board of Directors found it was in the interests of the CWC to establish the office of First Vice President and Second Vice President in order to provide for orderly conduct of the business of the Corporation; and

WHEREAS, the Policy Committee recommends the Board elect the following officers: Michael Triolo, President; Berndt Leifeld, First Vice-President; Robert Pelham, Second Vice-President; Donald “Mike” Brandow, Secretary; and James Eisel, Treasurer; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors elect the following officers: Michael Triolo, President; Berndt Leifeld, First Vice President; Robert Pelham, Second Vice-President; Donald “Mike” Brandow, Secretary; and James Eisel, Treasurer.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Officers shall serve and carry over until the 2016 Annual Meeting of Member Towns.

Voice Vote, carried unanimously

VI. Open Floor: Questions and Comments from Member Towns

- a. Emily Lloyd, Commissioner of New York City Environmental Protection, addressed the Board, stating that it is an enormous pleasure to be back visiting CWC as Commissioner again. She stressed the day to day relationship between DEP and CWC as critical to the watershed partnership. She complimented CWC on its accomplishments in strengthening*

Watershed communities while also working to preserve water quality.

Mike Triolo thanked Commissioner Lloyd for her comments and welcomed her back as a commissioner that truly has a working relationship with watershed communities.

- b. James Tierney, Assistant Commissioner for Water Resources of New York State Department of Conservation, addressed the Board, stating that the CWC is impressive in that they get things done. He also recalled the difficult negotiations that resulted in the Watershed Memorandum of Agreement –creating not only in CWC and its continuing partnerships and good work ,but also the Land Acquisition Program that now protects and sustains the Watershed. Mr. Tierney also noted that, with Senator Seward’s assistance, there is a new \$500,000 State initiative for planning and stewardship in the Catskills, as well as the new Catskill Interperative Center. Mr. Tierney added that CWC’s help will be needed to connect people more to recreation in the area through a Catskills Recretational Plan, similar to what was completed in the Adirondacks. The plan would look at hunting, fishing, hiking, trapping opputunities– and then getting people back to the local communitieswhere they can come to get refreshed. Mr. Tierney concluded by thanking CWC and CWC staff for their hard work, particularly work on flood resilliency*

Mike Triolo responded, thanking Mr. Tierney and stating that the partnership between the CWC and the State and the City is valued.

- c. Senator James Seward addressed the Board, first thanking CWC for the invitation to attend the Annual meeting, and then complimenting CWC on their elections process, and on another great year. He continued that CWC strikes a position of balance between preserving the environment, clean water for New York City, but also providing a great place to live and to work and to conduct business here in the watershed area. He stressed that the creation of the Catskill Park by the State Legislature in 1904 preserves a great resource of upstate New York and also provides for low-impact uses, and the ability to make a living here. Senator Seward stated that he was delighted to provide the initial \$500,000 in the State budget to move forward with developing a comprehensive plan for the Catskill Park on how to better utilize this great resource for both those who live here and those who visit here. His vision is that this would be an ongoing program supplementing the work being done by CWC. Senator Sewward also noted several other budget items to assist farmers, highway and bridge programs, and \$500 million to assist with the expansion of highspeed broadband throughout the state (primarily through Margaretville Telephone Company in this area) that will assist the Catskills and watershed communities.*
- d. Assemblyman Pete Lopez addressed the Board, and acknowledged the vast pool of experience, insight, and connection to the watershed region here at the Annual meeting. He stressed the need for partnerships and the broad vision of organizations like CWC and the Coalition of Watershed Towns, including CWC’s assistance on stormwater in Greene County, and the broad coalition and partnerships that reached agreement on voids and cold water releases in the Schoharie reservoir. Assemblyman Lopez concluded that the partnerships, like those in the watershed, are key to making progress and encouraged everyone utilize the*

resources of state elected officials as a partner.

- e. Congressman Gibson was unable to attend, but on his behalf, Paula Brown addressed the Board, reiterating what Senator Seward and Assemblyman Lopez stated, that the partnership with CWC and the watershed communities is highly valued by the Congressman.*

- f. Mike Triolo introduced Jeff Hanlon and Tomas Olivier, researchers and PhD candidates in political science from the University of Arizona. Jeff explained that they were studying watershed governments, which they consider different from watershed management. He continued that watershed government implies cooperation, conflict, adaptation, all of these things which the CWC does. To understand how all of this works and what can be gleaned from the types of rules and interactions that have shaped CWC from 1997 to where we are today, and they have analyzed in a large, quantitative way the MOA, Watershed Supply Permits, NYC Rules and Regulations, and all of the CWC Program Rules, and created a great database of all of the prescribed interactions that all of the partners are supposed to do. Tomas noted that during research, they went line by line, word by word of all of these documents and mapped out what all of the partners in the watershed should or should not do. Part of that process is mapping all of the partners within the watershed and the ties and relationships they should have. Tom continued that they now want to know what happens in reality, if the networks look like what is on paper, and what happens when they do or don't match the research. Tomas shared that he is from Argentina, and he finds CWC to be a very good example of things shared in common throughout watersheds in the United States to learn from and share with other countries. Jeff requested the audience complete a survey that will assist with their research, and he and Tomas would compile an executive summary of their findings in a statistical way, which will be distributed to those who take the survey. The mapping database will be publicly available for research, as there is nothing confidential contained within it. Jeff said that as there are several students working around the world on the same project, the culmination of the project will provide sharable, successful aspects of watershed governance that can be used world-wide. Jeff concluded that the survey is available either on the internet or in paper form.*

- g. Clayton Brooks addressed the Board, sharing his gratitude for the accomplishments of the CWC throughout the years. He shared memories of working on the inception of the Septic Program, and showed admiration for the work of the CWC staff and Board. He expressed joy at being able to be a part of the process. He concluded that although many incorrectly think of the programs at CWC as "New York City" programs, he admires the partnerships that have grown and are key to the Watershed today.*

VII. Adjournment @ 2:30 PM