

Catskill Watershed Corporation
Septic Committee Meeting
June 1, 2021
Minutes

Attendance:

Committee Members: Tina Mole' (Director), Richard Parete (Director), Alicia Terry (Director), Arthur Merrill (Director), Mark Tuthill (Director), Thomas Hoyt (Director), Allen Hinkley (Director), Thomas Snow (NYSDEC - by Zoom), Jason Merwin (CWC), David Warne (NYCDEP)

Others: William Branigan (CWC by Zoom), Racheal Burger (CWC by Zoom), Nicholas Carbone (Delaware County Watershed Affairs by Zoom), Samantha Costa (CWC), Timothy Cox (CWC), Jessica Fiedler (CWC by Zoom), Matt Gianetta (NYCDEP by Zoom), Mitchell Hull (CWC), John Jacobson (CWC), Innes Kasanof (Director), Lynn Kavanagh (CWC by Zoom), Eric Lane (CWC by Zoom), Michael Maloney (NYSDOH), Jim Martin (CWC), Christopher Matthews (Director), Jason Merwin (CWC), Michael Meyer (NYCDEP by Zoom), Patrick Palmer (NYSDOH by Zoom), Barbara Puglisi (CWC by Zoom), Nicholas Sadler (NYCDEP by Zoom), Jeff Senterman (Director), Cambria Tallman (CWC).

- I. The meeting was called to order at 9:46 AM by Arthur Merrill.
- II. Minutes from the May, 2021 Committee Meeting were reviewed and approved as written.
- III. Septic Program:

A. Adam Cooke Over \$25,000.00: Mr. Cooke's project is located at 403 Route 30 in the Town of Gilboa. His engineer is Kaaterskill Associates. His contractor is Belgian Trucking and Excavating. His proposed septic system will serve a three-bedroom house. Major components of this system will include a 1,000-gallon septic tank, a siphon chamber, 76 linear feet of gravity pipe, 479 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 10 cubic yards of C-33 sand, 288 square feet of Eljen units, an effluent filter, one distribution box and site restoration. Three quotes were received for this project. They were for \$35,470.00, \$36,500.00 and \$38,849.00. The lowest quote, submitted by Belgian Trucking and Excavating, is within 10% of the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Adam Cooke in the amount not to exceed \$35,470.00 to build his septic system.

B. Robert Donaldson Over \$25,000.00: Mr. Donaldson's project is located at 11153 State Highway 206 in the Town of Walton. His engineer is Sander Engineering. His contractor is Tweedie Construction. His proposed septic system will serve a three-bedroom house. Major components of this system will include a 1,000-gallon septic tank, 20 linear feet of gravity pipe, 145 linear feet of force main, k48 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 52 cubic yards of C-33 sand, three peat modules, an effluent filter, 310 linear feet of curtain drain and site restoration. Three quotes were received for this project. They were for \$33,466.47, \$38,090.00 and \$40,100.00. The lowest quote, submitted by Tweedie Construction, is within 10% of the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. The Committee recommended that a

resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Robert Donaldson in the amount not to exceed \$33,466.47 to build his septic system.

- C. **Elizabeth Fried Over \$25,000.00:** Ms. Fried's project is located at 1 Mullen Road in the Town of Shandaken. Her engineer is Rex Sanford. His contractor is Michael Formont. Her proposed septic system will serve a four-bedroom house. Major components of this system will include a 1,250 gallon septic tank, 10 Linear feet of gravity pipe, 220 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 600 square feet of absorption bed, an effluent filter, one distribution box, excavate and spread a cut and fill area, 135 linear feet of six foot high retaining wall and site restoration. Three quotes were received for this project. They were for \$38,584.25, \$40,174.15 and \$41,773.67. The lowest quote, submitted by Michael Formont, is within 10% of the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Elizabeth Fried in the amount not to exceed \$38,584.25 to build her septic system.
- D. **Sonia Janiszewski Over \$25,000.00:** Ms. Janiszewski's project is located at 40 Fuscas Road in the Town of Andes. Her engineer is Sander Engineering Her contractor is A&M Excavating. Her proposed septic system will serve a three-bedroom house. Major components of this system will include a 1,000-gallon septic tank, 71 linear feet of gravity pipe, an effluent filter, one distribution box, 134 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 22 cubic yards of C-33 sand, 220 linear feet of Presby pipe, 50 linear feet of vent pipe, excavate and spread a cut and fill area and site restoration. Ms. Janiszewski's contractor has submitted a quote for \$26,503.00 to build this system. This amount is within 10% of the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Sonia Janiszewski in the amount not to exceed \$26,503.00 to build her septic system.
- E. **David Katsive Over \$25,000.00:** Mr. Katsive's project is located at 193 Upper Boiceville Road in the Town of Olive. His engineer is Rex Sanford. His Contractor is Chad Davis Contracting. His proposed septic system will serve a three-bedroom house. Major components of this system will include a 1,000 gallon septic tank, 67 linear feet of gravity pipe, an effluent filter, one distribution box, 195 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 240 linear feet of conventional absorption trench, remove four trees, shuttle tank and materials and site restoration. Three quotes were received for this project. They were for \$38,552.12, \$39,316.56 and \$39,830.21. The lowest quote, submitted by Chad Davis Contracting, is within 10% of the staff estimated cost of construction. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse David Katsive in the amount not to exceed \$38,552.12 to build his septic system.
- F. **Diana Lawrence Over \$25,000.00:** Ms. Lawrence's project is located at 130 Paradise Lane in the Town of Ashland. Her engineer is Steven Schildhorn. Her contractor is Belgian Trucking and Excavating. Her proposed septic system will serve a two-bedroom house. Major components of this system will include a 1,000 gallon septic tank, 105 linear feet of gravity pipe, an effluent filter, one distribution box, 105 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 220 linear feet of conventional absorption trench, 140 linear feet of improved swale, remove two trees, excavate and spread a cut and

fill area, carefully place material into deep trenches and site restoration. Three quotes were received for this project. They were for \$34,250.00, \$37,595.00, and \$37,690.00. A pond was built years ago on this site. Clay material from excavating it was spread on top of the area where this system is located. Usable soil is beneath that. Extra machine time is required to excavate deeper tranches than normal, increasing construction costs. The lowest quote, submitted by Belgian Trucking and Excavating, is within 10% of the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. Tom Hoyt abstained. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Diana Lawrence in the amount not to exceed \$34,250.00 to build her septic system.

- G. Andre Mignier Over \$25,000.00:** Mr. Mignier's project is located at 779 Elk Creek Road in the Town of Delhi. His engineer is Steele Brook Engineering. His contractor is Delaware Bulldozing Corp. His proposed septic system will serve a five-bedroom house. Major components of this system will include a 1,500 gallon septic tank, 190 linear feet of force main, an effluent filter, 203 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 117 cubic yards of random fill material, four peat modules, 70 linear feet of curtain drain, 20 linear feet of curtain drain outlet pipe, 15 linear feet of steel sleeve, remove two trees and site restoration. Three quotes were received for this project. They were for \$45,487.00, \$48,965.00 and \$50,950.00. The lowest quote, submitted by Delaware Bulldozing Corp., is within 10% of the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Andre' Mignier in the amount not to exceed \$45,487.00 to build his septic system.
- H. Ruslon Naymon Over \$25,000.00:** Mr. Naymon's project is located at 181 Wright Road in the Town of Jewett. His engineer is Kaaterskill Associates. His contractor is Ryan Martin. His proposed septic system will serve a four-bedroom house. Major components of this system will include a 1,250 gallon septic tank, a pump chamber, 15 linear feet of gravity pipe, 105 linear feet of force main, 760 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 200 linear feet of curtain drain and site restoration. Three quotes were received for this project. They were for \$57,000.00, \$61,000.00 and \$62,328.00. The lowest quote, submitted by Ryan Martin, is within 10% of the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. This is a secondary residence eligible for 60% of reasonable cost. $\$57,000.00 \times 60\% = \$34,200.00$. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Ruslon Namon in the amount not to exceed \$34,200.00 to build his septic system.
- I. Michael Piecuch Over \$25,000.00:** Mr. Piecuch's project is located at 2096 Route 10 in the Town of Windham. His engineer is Steven Schildhorn. His contractor is James Rion Construction. His proposed septic system will serve a three-bedroom house. Major components of this system will include a 1,000 gallon septic tank, 31 linear feet of gravity pipe, 122 linear feet of force main, 42 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 143 cubic yards of random fill material, three peat modules, an effluent filter, 100 linear feet of improved swale and site restoration. Three quotes were received for this system. They were for \$29,375.00, \$32,136.64 and \$34,590.00. The lowest quote, submitted by James Rion Construction, is below the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. The contractor is close to this site and trucking costs are less. The Committee recommended that a resolution be

brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Michael Piecuch in the amount not to exceed \$29,375.00 to build his septic system.

- J. David Robinson Over \$25,000.00:** Mr. Robinson's project is located at 548 Carroll Hinkley Road in the Town of Roxbury. His engineer is Rex Sanford. His contractor is Nick Finch. His proposed septic system will serve a three-bedroom house. Major components of this system will include a 1,000 gallon septic tank, a siphon chamber, 63 linear feet of gravity pipe, an effluent filter, one distribution box, 220 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 260 linear feet of conventional absorption trench, 405 linear feet of access road, change interior plumbing, remove trees and brush and site restoration. Three quotes were received for this project. They were for \$32,386.62, \$32,964.22 and \$33,503.62. The lowest quote, submitted by Nick Finch, is within 10% of the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse David Robinson in the amount not to exceed \$32,386.62 to build his septic system.
- K. Sommer Schauer Over \$25,000.00:** Mr. Schauer's project is located at 98 Ruff Road in the Town of Andes. His engineer is Steele Brook Engineering. His contractor is LaFever Excavation. His proposed septic system will serve a four-bedroom house. Major components of this system will include a 1,250 gallon septic tank, a siphon chamber, 212 linear feet of gravity pipe, an effluent filter, one distribution box, 363 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 290 linear feet of absorption trench, 95 linear feet of curtain drain, 85 linear feet of curtain drain outlet pipe, reinforce a bridge and site restoration. Three quotes were received for this project. They were for \$39,149.00, \$40,550.00 and \$42,575.00. The lowest quote, submitted by LaFever Excavation, is within 10% of the staff recommended cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Sommer Schauer in the amount not to exceed \$39,149.00 to build his septic system.
- L. Anthony Athanasakes Over \$25,000.00:** Mr. Athanasakes' project is located at 466-478 Oliverea Road in the Town of Shandaken. This project is eligible for funding under the Expanded Septic Program for Apartments. His engineer is Rex Sanford. His contractor is Josh Construction. His proposed septic system will serve a total of 11 bedrooms. Major components of this system will include one 2,000 gallon septic tank, two 1,000 gallon septic tanks, two siphon chambers, 241 linear feet of gravity pipe, three effluent filters, two distribution boxes, 34 cubic yards of extra stone, 1,800 square feet of absorption bed, 110 linear feet of access road, spread and restore excess material and site restoration. Three quotes were received for this project. They were for \$46,317.18, \$47,461.40 and \$48,178.31. The lowest quote, submitted by Josh Construction, is within 10% of the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Anthony Athanasakes in the amount not to exceed \$46,317.18 to build his septic system.
- M. Sheri Stalter Additional Cost:** Ms. Stalter's project is located at 1999 Launt Hollow Road in the Town of Hamden. Her engineer is Sander Engineering. Her contractor is Delaware Bulldozing Corp. Her proposed septic system will serve a three-bedroom house. This project was previously approved for \$4,918.00 for the installation of an

emergency 1,000 gallon septic tank. Most of the major components include 28 linear feet of gravity pipe, 150 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 22 cubic yards of C-33 sand, one distribution box, 220 linear feet of Presby pipe, 145 linear feet of curtain drain, 95 linear feet of vent pipe, excavate and spread a cut and fill area and site restoration. After negotiations with the contractor, a quote a quote was received for \$23,085.00 to install these components. This amount is within 10% of the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. This will bring the total project cost to \$28,003.00 The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Sheri Stalter in the amount not to exceed \$23,085.00 for additional costs to build her septic system.

- N. Steven Endy Second Time Repair:** Mr. Endy's project is located in the Town of Hunter. His septic system was paid for in 2009 under the Priority 6 Program. Mr. Endy's septic system is not operating properly. The septic tank is way above operating level. The homeowner had the septic tank pumped in 2013 and 2020. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Steven Endy for a second time repair.
- O. Laurence Laufer Second Time Repair:** Mr. Laufer's project is located in the Town of Shandaken. His septic system was paid for in 2003 under the Reimbursement Program. Mr. Laufer's system is not functioning properly. Mitch inspected the septic tank and distribution box. Roots from a large willow tree have completely clogged the absorption field. The house had very little use until 2020. It is now a full time residence. The septic tank was pumped in 2008, 2018 and 2020. Roots were cleaned out of the system in 2018. The homeowner does not want to cut the tree. There is room to move the system. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Laurence Laufer for a second time repair.
- P. Ronald Miller Second Time Repair:** Mr. Miller's project is located in the Town of Neversink. His septic system was paid for in 1998 under the Coordinator Program. Sewage is surfacing on the ground and effluent constantly runs back into the pump chamber causing the pump to run again. The homeowner had the septic tank pumped in 2008, 2018 and 2020. Brian Rogerson tried to correct the problem. He replaced the pump and installed a check valve. The absorption field is apparently failing. There appears to be room for gravity flow to a conventional absorption field. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Ronald Miller for a second time repair.
- Q. Michael Milton Second Time Repair:** Mr. Milton's project is located in the Town of Kortright. His septic system was paid for in 2007 under the Priority 4 Program. Groundwater is infiltrating his pump chamber causing it to malfunction. The homeowner had the septic tank pumped in 2018 and 2020. A new pump was installed in 2020. New floats were installed in 2021. The system appears to need a pump chamber and possibly a curtain drain. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Michael Milton for a second time repair.
- R. Christian Lynch Property Purchase:** Mr. Lynch's project is located at 3 Baker Road in the Town of Shandaken. His engineer is Rex Sanford. There is not enough room on

the property to build a septic system. Mr. Lynch bought an adjoining lot for \$10,000.00. He is asking to be reimbursed for the purchase. The engineer needs 8,800 square feet to complete his septic system design. Based on the area required and what has been paid for before by the program, it has been determined that \$4,000.00 is a reasonable cost. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Christian Lynch in the amount not to exceed \$4,000.00 to purchase adjoining property to build his septic system.

- S. **Septic Maintenance:** Mitch Hull updated the Committee on activity in the Septic Maintenance Program. 43 homeowners were reimbursed for pump outs over the past month. This number is a little above average. 144 homeowners have been reimbursed for pump outs this year.
- T. **Septic Cluster:** There was nothing to report in this program.
- U. **Septic Update:** 13 homeowners were reimbursed for septic system repairs last month. 38 homeowners have been reimbursed for septic system repairs this year. The spring was wet. Several projects are beginning now.
- V. **Other:** Jason reviewed a chart he developed of Septic Program funding. It is based on financials from Jim Martin. These financials lag by two months. Currently, funds in Septic IV and Septic V total \$13,915,507.00. \$10,353,000.00 has been allocated. Funding available for new participants is \$3,562,507.00. At our average cost of \$29,000.00 per project 122 new participants can be signed up. The Septic Program calendar is booked into August. Mitch said that we have appointments for 122 new participants. We will invoice DEP for \$1.8 million on July 1. Jason thinks we may not be able to invoice for more funding in September due to the amount of cash on hand and reconciliation requirements. The next invoice may be in January.

Mitch discussed Gene Madsen's request for Second Time Repair funding. It was denied in July, 2020. His septic system was paid for in 1999 under the Coordinator Program. He has replaced the pump. There are no other issues with the system. He did have the septic tank pumped out in 2004, 2016 and 2020. Recently, Second Time Repair requests have been approved with similar pump out records. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Gene Madsen for a Second Time Repair.

Price increases for materials, particularly for PVC pipe were discussed. Mitch has received bills for additional costs. Most of these are from smaller contractors. Larger contractors have stockpiles. PVC pipe was \$2.00 per foot higher at the end of April than anticipated. It is \$3.50 to \$4.00 higher now. It is also hard to get. Costs for peat modules have also increased. The Schedule of Values is increased once every year. David Warne acknowledged that this is an issue that should be discussed. Requests for extra cost because of material price increases should be brought before the Committee. Contractors will have to provide proof of expenditure. The age of the quote should also be factored in. Requests should be considered case by case.

Program staff can not recommend contractors. Tim explained that years ago CWC had a list of contractors. A septic pumper on that list had let his license expire. He was ticketed by DEC and taken off the list. The list was then discontinued. Homeowners can go to our website and look up in the minutes who is doing septic projects.

Tim disclosed to the Committee that he may want to sign up for the program when it opens again. He had a tank replacement paid for by the program at his own house. Now his absorption field seems to be failing. He had his septic tank pumped twice over the winter. Now it is backing up again. His system will be a Managed Repair since he lives within the proposed Shokan Sewer District. He will need to have his failure verified by DEP.

IV. The next Septic Committee Meeting was scheduled for July 6, 2021.

V. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM.