

# CATSKILL WATERSHED CORPORATION

## Annual Board of Directors Meeting

### MINUTES

April 5, 2022 @ 1:00 p.m.

#### I. Call to Order

#### II. Pledge of Allegiance lead by Tina Molé

#### III. Roll Call of Directors

##### Members Present:

Tina Molé, Alicia Terry, James Eisel, Richard Parete, Innes Kasanof, Joseph Cetta, Jim Sofranko, Christopher Mathews, Allen Hinkley, Arthur Merrill, Jeff Senterman, Mark Tuthill, David Warne (DEP), and Thomas Snow (DOH)

##### Members Excused:

**Staff Members Present:** Samantha Costa, Timothy Cox, Jason Merwin, Sonia Martinez, Barbara Puglisi, James Martin, Mitchell Hull, John Jacobson, Kyle Faraci, Todd Henderson, Charlie Schafer, Skylic Roberts, John Mathiesen, Racheal Burger and Eric Lane.

**Others Present:** Michael Maloney and Patrick Palmer (*New York State DOH*), Shelly Johnson-Bennett (*Delaware County Planning & WSA*), Nick Carbone (*Delaware County Plannung & WSA*), Paul Beford (*Keystone Associates Architects*), Mike Sterthous (*Whiteman Osterman & Hanna*), Robert McLaughlin (*Whiteman Osterman & Hanna*), Lisa Melville (*New York State DOS*), Jonathan LaFever (*LaFever Excavating Inc.*), John Hubbell (*Village of Margareville*), Daryl Legg (*Greene Co. Leg.*), Frank Flaches (*Frank Septic*), Clayton Brooks (*Former CWT Executive Director*), Alan Rosa (*Former Executive Director*), Michael Brooks (*Sullivan County Legislature*), David Brooks (*Town of Denning Supervisor*), Andy Eberhardt (*Eberhardt Excavating, LLC*), Rex Sanford (*Rex Sanford, PE*), Graydon Dutcher (*Delaware County SWCD*), Larry Underwood (*Del. Co. SWCD*), Jim Peters (*Peters Excavating*), David & Abigail Estes (*Estes Plumbing & Excavation*), Jim Thorington (*Greene County Leg.*), Brent Trimbell (*Lasting Impressions Landscape*), Tony VanGlad (*Former Board Member*), Kevin Young (*Young Sommer*), Nick Warner (*Lamont Engineers*), Sam Kandel (*Ulster County Community College*), Henry Lamont (*Lamont Engineers*), Jeffrey Baker (*Coalition of Watershed Towns*), John Schwartz (*New York City DEP*), Aaron Bennet (*New York City DEP*), Nicolas Sadler (*New York City DEP*), Matthew Gianetta (*New York City DEP*), Winifred Zubin (*Village of Fleischmanns*), Carol O'Beirne (*Water Discovery Center*), and Tony Luisi (*NYS DEC Region 4 Director*)

**Others Present via Zoom:** Camille O'Brien (*Representative for Senator Martucci*), Michael Meyer (*New York City DEP*), Mary A. Crisafulli (*The Reporter*), Daniel Ruzow (*Whiteman Osterman & Hanna*), Emma Cohen (*Representative for Senator Hinchey*), Katie Lynch (*EPA*), Kelly Turturro (*DEC Region 3 Director*), and Morgan Tarbell (*NYS DOH*)

*Tina Mole greeted everyone.*

#### IV. Staff Presentation of 2021 Accomplishments

*Staff video of 2021 accomplishments prepared by Samantha Costa was presented to all attendees.*

*Tina Molé, CWC Board President, welcomed attendees to the first in-person annual meeting since the start of the pandemic. She noted that all attendees have had an important role in the growth of CWC. CWC Board, staff and guests introduced themselves.*

*Ms. Mole stated that 2021 proved to be a year of learning with both challenges and rewards, making new milestones for the CWC, such as the retirement of Alan Rosa and appointment of Jason Merwin as Executive Director. Tina continued that Jason Merwin has done an exemplary job leading CWC in its new transition and thanked him for his constant attention to CWC matters.*

*Ms. Molé continued that 2021 also marks the new change of watershed leadership, including the selection of a new mayor in New York City. She noted that Mayor Adams has made notable changes such as the appointment of a new leadership of the DEP, Rohit Aggarwala. Tina noted that unfortunately Mr. Aggarwala was unable to attend, breaking what she believed was a 25 year tradition of attendance of DEP Commissioners attending CWC's Annual meeting of member towns. Tina stated looks forward to the Commissioners visit in May at CWC's new facility to understand watershed management from an upstate perspective. The CWC's programs all help preserve water quality, while advancing local initiatives to grow our economy and support the development of much needed housing and small business projects.*

*Tina stated that she supports the report from the National Academy of Sciences as a foundation for CWC recommendations of projects. This report will prove useful in a new era of FAD negotiations. Tina stated that she looks forward to seeing CWC represent communities and residents, while continuing to exceed EPA water-quality standards. As President of CWC, Tina emphasized that she wishes to ensure that CWC continues to have support through the next generation of watershed management as CWC represents the upstate communities.*

*Ms. Molé concluded by thanking attendees and expects CWC to have another successful year.*

*Jason Merwin, CWC Executive Director spoke next and highlighted that in just his first year as Executive Director he has faced several difficult decisions. He gives his thanks to the CWC Board for their continued support in making his transition to Executive Director successful. He recognizes CWC Staff for their hard work throughout the year, giving emphasis towards their dedication to the CWC and the watershed communities.*

*Jason continued that CWC is excited to be able to host people and have the auditorium seats filled for the first time in two years. However, Jason stated he is disappointed that the newly appointed DEP Commissioner, Mr. Aggarwala, declined to attend the CWC annual meeting of member watershed towns. Jason thanked DEP employees for their partnership, particularly their ability to collaborate and cooperate with CWC despite struggles and learning curves. Jason Merwin concluded by acknowledging former CWC Executive Director Alan Rosa for his immense contributions to CWC and his role in CWC's great success today.*

*Alan Rosa spoke and recalled his time at CWC has gifted him many great friends. He particularly noted former Board President the late Perry Shelton for his dedication to the CWC as well as the late Ray Christiansen, former chair of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors. Alan recalled his presence throughout the negotiations that resulted in the 1997MOA, as well the creation of CWT and later CWC. Alan concluded by stating he was thankful for the career that he had at the CWC and his confidence in Mr. Merwin's ability to lead CWC.*

## **V. Board of Directors Election Results**

*Alicia Terry, CWC Board Secretary, announced the election results for the three director seats from Delaware County. James E. Eisel, Allen Hinkley and Arthur Merrill have all been re-elected to serve on the CWC Board for the next 4 years by their fellow Delaware County Watershed Town Supervisors. Their terms will expire in 2026.*

## **VI. Election of Officers:**

A motion to approve Resolution No. 4338 was made and signified by all.

April 5, 2022

**RESOLUTION NO. 4338**

**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**, by Resolution 3186, the CWC Board of Directors established the office of Third Vice-President to provide for the orderly conduct of business of the Corporation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Policy Committee recommends the Board elect the following officers: Tina Molé, President; Rich Parete, First Vice President; Innes Kasanof, Second Vice-President; Christopher Mathews, Third Vice-President; James Eisel, Treasurer; and Alicia Terry, Secretary.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors elect the following officers: Tina Molé, President; Rich Parete, First Vice President; Innes Kasanof, Second Vice-President; Christopher Mathews, Third Vice-President; James Eisel, Treasurer; and Alicia Terry, Secretary.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Officers shall serve and carry over until the 2023 Annual Meeting of Member Towns.

**Voice Vote, carried unanimously**

**VII. Open Floor: Questions and Comments from Member Towns and participants:**

*Carol O’Beirne from the Water Discovery Center provided an update to the CWC Board and attendees on the Center’s activities. She invited every to tour the WDC exhibits following the CWC annual meeting. She also thanked CWC for the space and the ability it provides to grow WDC programs. She continued that the WDC looks forward to continuing education opportunities on 30 acres of wetland behind the CWC building, including an interpretative boardwalk funded with support of the Delaware County SWCD. Carol concluded that WDC Board continues to add more members and educators and welcomes attendees to ask questions or provide comments.*

*The crowd applause.*

*Frank Flaches of Frank’s Septic addressed Mr. Warne from DEP with questions and comments regarding the reduction by DEP of septage accepted at NYC operated wastewater treatment plants. Citing a memo February 2022 memo sent by Mr. Vickers from DEP regarding the reduction and the reasons for it, he asked for specifics on the staff shortage mentioned in the memo. Tina Mole responded that Mr. Flaches can speak with Mr. Warne after the meeting. Mr. Warne also replied that he does not oversee the City wastewater treatment plans in the West of Hudson watershed and is unable to offer answers at this time.*

*Tina Mole thanks the attendees for their contributions to the CWC.*

**VIII. Adjournment at 2:10 PM**