



Catskill Watershed Corporation

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ARKVILLE, April 5, 2023: The Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) convened on April 4th, 2023, for its annual meeting at its headquarters in Arkville, New York. The fifteen-member CWC board of 12 elected local officials and three appointed representatives welcomed a standing room only crowd including Rohit Aggarwala, NYC Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner, and various representatives from NYS Department of Health, the US Environmental Protection Agency, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and key stakeholders, partners, and town supervisors and village mayors from across the New York City Watershed West of the Hudson River.

The following CWC officers were elected: 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.

The CWC administers critical programs across the West of Hudson Watershed, which includes 39 towns across five counties. CWC programs protect and enhance both the economic viability of watershed communities and drinking water for those within the watershed as well as NYC residents. Independent, locally based and locally administered, CWC programming is made possible through the cooperation and partnership of involved communities, agencies, and stakeholders.

CWC Executive Director Jason Merwin summarized 2022, which included a number of milestones and achievements for CWC and the watershed and a dramatic increase in participation levels across CWC programs:

- 17 low interest loans to various businesses located in Watershed towns were approved under the Economic Development Program, totaling over \$8.1 million.
- 285 septic systems were repaired or replaced, the highest volume of repairs in a decade, under the Septic Rehabilitation and Replacement Program.
- 667 property owners participated in the Septic Maintenance Program which once again had a record year.
- The Flood Hazard Mitigation Implementation Program approved funding to assist property owners with a number of flood protection efforts and water quality benefits while also approving a \$15 million renewal contract with DEP to ensure additional funding for future projects.
- Nearly \$158,000 in grants were awarded to schools and non-profit organizations for watershed education projects and programs in NYC and across the watershed region.



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- \$2,501,629 was approved in funding from the Future Stormwater and MOA-145 Programs for costs to comply with NYCDEP required stormwater control and treatment measures through the West of Hudson Watershed for a variety of projects.
- \$56,843 in funding from the Stormwater Retrofit program for stormwater BMPs was approved.
- Community outreach included participation across the watershed at a variety of community events including seminars and trainings, festivals and fairs, roadside clean ups, and holiday events among others.

As the largest unfiltered water source in the U.S., the West of Hudson Watershed serves as an example of cooperation, coalition and compromise between stakeholders that is known and recognized internationally by government and nongovernmental organizations.

CWC programs continue to evolve to meet the economic and water protection needs of our local watershed communities. In 2022 CWC announced the formation of a special committee to begin the task of evaluating and monitoring community sustainability within the West of Hudson Watershed. CWC President Tina Molé states, “We will be looking at the impacts the watershed has had on our local communities as well as developing a path forward to build sustainable economies into watershed management for the future. This is a critical component of our long-term growth and ability to continue the essential role as watershed stewards. Community health is directly tied to water quality stewardship and is important to understand the ability of communities to grow and evolve in light of changes related to the New York State objectives to combat climate change.”

The 2022 Annual Meeting Report and details about each of our programs, board members, and how to participate or get involved in CWC is available on our website: cwconline.org.

CWC is a not-for-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. All thirty-nine towns within the New York City Watershed West of the Hudson River are members of CWC.