

**Catskill Watershed Corporation
Septic Committee Meeting
July 1, 2025
Minutes**

Attendance:

Committee Members: Arthur Merrill (Director), Tina Molé (Director), Richard Parete (Director), Alicia Terry (Director), Jason Merwin (CWC), Shiloh Williams (NYCDEP)

Others: Zach Baldwin-Way (CWC Intern), Lindsay Ballard (CWC), Aaron Bennett (NYCDEP), Donald Brown (CWC), Nick Carbone (Delaware County Watershed Affairs by Zoom), Joseph Cetta (Director), Samantha Costa (CWC), Timothy Cox (CWC), Kyle Faraci (CWC), Jessica Fiedler (CWC), Caitlynn Gatson (CWC Intern), Matthew Gianetta (NYCDEP by Zoom), Mitchell Hull (CWC), John Jacobson (CWC), Innes Kasanof (Director), Lynn Kavanagh (CWC), John Kosier (Director), David Lane (CWC), Eric Lane (CWC), Michael Maloney (NYSDOH), James Martin (CWC), Sonia Martinez (CWC), Christopher Matthews (Director), Lisa Melville (NYSDOS/WPPC by Zoom), Michael Meyers (NYCDEP by Zoom), Dymitry Ostapyshyn (NYCDEP by Zoom), Patrick Palmer (NYSDOH), Barbara Puglisi (CWC), Nicholas Sadler (NYCDEP), John Schwartz (NYCDEP), Jeffrey Senterman (Director), James Sofranko (Director), Thomas Stalter (NYCDEP by Zoom), Audrey Strom (CWC Intern), Gerson Tavaréz (NYCDEP), Pauline Wanjugi (NYSDOH by Zoom), John Wimbush (NYDOD by Zoom), Gemma Young (CWC)

- I. Arthur Merrill called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM.
- II. Minutes from the June, 2025 Committee Meeting were reviewed and approved as written.
- III. Septic Program:
 - A. **Robert Danetz Over \$30,000.00:** Mr. Danetz's residence is located at 182 Deer Run Road, Denver. New York 12421 in the Town of Roxbury. CWC staff determined that his septic system is likely to fail. The engineer is John Bolger, P.E. The contractor is Four Seasons Landscaping, Inc. Mr. Danetz signed into the program on April 12, 2024. His Design Application was received by NYCDEP on February 25, 2025 and deemed complete on March 14, 2025. His septic system design was recommended for NYCDEP Design Approval on April 15, 2025. Mr. Danetz's two-year deadline is April 12, 2026. His proposed septic system will serve a three-bedroom house. Major components of this system include a 1,000 gallon septic tank, a siphon chamber, 50 linear feet of gravity pipe, an effluent filter, one distribution box, 240 linear feet of absorption trench, 476 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 103 linear feet of curtain drain, 60 linear feet of curtain drain outlet pipe, 103 linear feet of improved swale, 476 linear feet of access road, shuttle and set tanks with a large excavator, shuttle material, remove 30 trees and site restoration. Three quotes were submitted to the homeowner for this project. They were \$82,100.00, \$83,250.00 and \$83,700.00. The lowest quote, submitted by Four Seasons Landscaping, 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 Danetz in the amount not to exceed \$82,100.00 to build his septic system.

- B. Maria Macri Over \$30,000.00:** Ms. Macri's residence is located at 377 County Highway 13, Prattsville, New York 12468 in the Town of Lexington. CWC staff determined that her septic system is failing. The engineer is Christopher DiChiaro, P.E. The contractor is Belgian Trucking & Excavating LLC. Ms. Macri signed into the program on August 7, 2024. Her Design Application was received by NYCDEP on October 16, 2024 and deemed complete on October 22, 2024. Her septic system design was recommended for NYCDEP Design Approval on October 22, 2024. Ms. Macri's two-year deadline is August 7, 2026. Her proposed septic system will serve a three-bedroom house. Major components of this system include a 1,000 gallon septic tank, one pump chamber, 32 linear feet gravity pipe, 119 linear feet of force main, an effluent filter, one distribution box, 355 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 300 linear feet of absorption trench, 130 linear feet of curtain drain, 110 linear feet of curtain drain outlet pipe, 55 linear feet of access road and site restoration. Three quotes were submitted to the homeowner for this project. They were \$49,230.00, \$52,000.00 and \$53,500.00. The lowest quote, submitted by Belgian Trucking & Excavating, LLC 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 Maria Macri in the amount not to exceed \$49,230.0 to build her septic system.
- C. Robert Michel Over \$30,000.00:** Mr. Michel's residence is located at 544 Durham Road, Gilboa, New York 12076 in the Town of Conesville. CWC staff determined that his septic system is likely to fail. The engineer is Praetorius & Conrad, P.C. The contractor is SM Young Construction LLC. Mr. Michel signed into the program on November 12, 2024. His Design Application was received by NYCDEP on February 14 2025 and deemed complete on March 4, 2025. His septic system design was recommended for NYCDEP Design Approval on March 5, 2025. Mr. Michel's two-year deadline is November 12, 2026. His proposed septic system will serve a three-bedroom house. Major components of this system include a 1,000 gallon H2O septic tank, a siphon chamber, 140 linear feet of gravity pipe, an effluent filter, one distribution box, 575 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 244 linear feet of absorption trench, 120 linear feet curtain drain, 60 linear feet of curtain drain outlet pipe, 125 linear feet of access road, remove five trees and site restoration. Three quotes were submitted to the homeowner for this project. They were \$48,237.31, \$49,870.00 and \$54,980.00. The lowest quote, submitted by SM Young Construction LLC, is below 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 Michel in the amount not to exceed \$48,237.31 to build his septic system.
- D. Thomas Mueller Over \$30,000.00:** Mr. Mueller's residence is located at 418 Hog Mountain Road, Fleischmanns, New York 12430 in the Town of Middletown. CWC staff determined that his septic system is likely to fail. The engineer is John Bolger, P.E. The contractor is Jim Peters Excavating LLC. Mr. Mueller signed into the program on December 9, 2024. His Design Application was received by NYCDEP on January 10, 2025 and deemed complete on January 17, 2025. His septic system design was recommended for NYCDEP Design

Approval on March 27, 2025. Mr. Mueller's two-year deadline is December 9, 2026. His proposed septic system will serve a two-bedroom house. Major components of this system include a 1,000 gallon H2O septic tank, a pump chamber, 116 linear feet of gravity pipe, 88 linear feet of force main, an effluent filter, 145 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 62 cubic yards of C-33 sand, two peat modules, 50 linear feet of curtain drain, 40 linear feet of curtain drain outlet pipe, 50 linear feet of improved swale, 10 linear feet of six-inch sleeve, remove 20 trees, set tanks with a large excavator and site restoration. Three quotes were submitted to the homeowner for this project. They were \$58,003.00, \$61,100.00 and \$62,753.00. The lowest quote, submitted by Jim Peters Excavating LLC, 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 Thomas Mueller in the amount not to exceed \$58,003.00 to build his septic system.

E. Kathryn Musilek Over \$30,000.00: Ms. Musilek's residence is located at 627 West Platner Brook Road, Delhi, New York 13753 in the Town of Delhi. CWC staff determined that her septic system is failing. The engineer is Steele Brook Engineering, PLLC. The contractor is LaFever Excavating, Inc. Ms. Musilek signed into the program on May 31, 2024. Her Design Application was received by NYCDEP on January 7, 2025 and deemed complete on January 14, 2025. Her septic system design was recommended for NYCDEP Design Approval on February 26, 2025. Ms. Musilek's two-year deadline is May 31, 2026. Her proposed septic system will serve a two-bedroom house. Major components of this system include a 1,000 gallon septic tank, 68 linear feet of gravity pipe, one distribution box, 386 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 160 linear feet of Presby pipe, 19 cubic yards of C-33 sand, 63 linear feet of vent pipe, 172 linear feet of curtain drain, 47 linear feet of curtain drain outlet pipe, 77 linear feet of improved swale, remove eight trees, bucket material and site restoration. Two quotes were submitted to the homeowner for this project. They were \$53,415.00 and \$53,960.00. The lowest quote, submitted by LaFever Excavating, Inc., is within 10% of the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. This is a secondary residence eligible for 60% reimbursement. $\$53,415.00 \times 60\% = \$32,049.00$. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Kathryn Musilek in the amount not to exceed \$32,049.00 to build her septic system.

F. Jeffrey Laskow Over \$30,000.00: Mr. Laskow owns the Big Indian Post Office building located at 8279 State Route 28, Big Indian, New York 12410 in the Town of Shandaken. CWC staff determined that his septic system is likely to fail. The Post Office portion of this project is eligible for 100% reimbursement through the Expanded Septic Program. Mr. Laskow is adding a one-bedroom residence to the building. Parts of the septic system serving the new residence are ineligible for program funding. The engineer is John Bolger, P.E. The contractor is Jim Peters Excavating LLC. Mr. Laskow signed into the program on June 28, 2023. His two-year deadline has been extended until December 31, 2025. His proposed septic system will serve the Post Office. Major components of this system include a 1,000 gallon H2O septic tank, an H2O pump chamber, 77 linear feet of gravity pipe, an effluent filter, one distribution box, 100 linear feet of absorption trench, remove six trees, spread and reclaim excess material and

site restoration. Three quotes were submitted to the owner for this project. They were \$38,600.00, \$38,975.00 and \$39,200.00. The lowest quote, submitted by Jim Peters Excavating LLC. is within 10% of the staff estimated cost of construction based on the Schedule of Values. Mr. Laskow is responsible for costs of additional four-inch pipe and half of the absorption field which will serve the new residence. Ineligible costs total \$2,240.97. $\$38,600.00 - \$2,240.87 = \$36,359.13$. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Jeffrey Laskow in the amount not to exceed \$36,359.13 to build his septic system.

- G. **Carolee Reagan Additional Costs:** Ms. Reagan's residence is located at 4926 Route 212, Willow, New York 12495 in the Town of Woodstock. The engineer is Rex Sanford, P.E. The contractor is Chad Davis Contracting. This project was previously approved for \$32,087.64. Material excavated for the septic tank and absorption field was unsuitable for backfill. Two loads of clean material were brought in to backfill the system. The contractor has requested \$1,065.28 for the added work. This amount appears to be reasonable and justifiable. The total project cost will be \$33,153.92. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Carolee Reagan in the amount not to exceed \$1,065.28 for additional costs to build her septic system.
- H. **Kevin Taylor Additional Cost:** Mr. Taylor's residence is located at 6191 Dryden Road, Walton, New York 13856 in the Town of Tompkins. The engineer is Steele Brook Engineering PLLC. The contractor is Catskill Underground Services. This project was previously approved for \$53,273.77. Rock was encountered during installation of the septic tank. The contractor had to hammer for five hours to attain necessary depths. Due to rain, 1,200 square feet of jute fabric was installed on the lower taper of the absorption field to prevent erosion. The contractor has requested \$3,539.25 for the added work. This amount appears to be reasonable and justifiable. The total project cost will be \$56,813.02. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Kevin Taylor in the amount not to exceed \$3,539.25 for additional costs to build his septic system.
- I. **Claudia Casamassime Additional Costs:** Ms. Casamassime's residence is located at 76 Grandview Acres, Phoenicia, New York 12464 in the Town of Shandaken. The engineer is Rex Sanford, P.E. The contractor is Michael Formont. This project was previously approved for \$61,754.26. The system was receiving a large amount of ground water causing the pump alarm to go off. The source was determined to be the existing septic tank. The engineer instructed the contractor to replace the tank. The contractor has requested \$7,915.85 for the added work. This amount appears to be reasonable and justifiable. The total project cost will be \$69,670.11. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Claudia Casamassime in the amount not to exceed \$7,915.85 for additional costs to build her septic system.
- J. **Sead Celic Second Time Repair:** Mr. Celic's residence is in the Town of Neversink, Section, Block and Lot number 44-1-2.13, This project was paid for

in 2004 under the Priority 1B Program. The poly septic tank is caving in. A maintenance pump out was done in 2022. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to approve Sead Celic for a second time repair.

- K. **Donald Denton Second Time Repair:** Mr. Denton's residence is in the Town of Jewett, Section, Block and Lot number 111.00-2-80.2. This project was paid for in 2015 under the Priority 8 Program. The pump was not working and had to be replaced. The septic tank has not been pumped. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to approve Donald Denton for a second time repair.
- L. **Paul Jurjens Second Time Repair:** Mr. Jurjens's residence is in the Town of Walton, Section, Block and Lot number 229-1-14.2. This project was paid for in 2010 under the Priority 7 Program. Upper Eljen mats are not taking effluent. The bottom lateral is very saturated. The owner says he has pumped the septic tank but was unaware of our Maintenance Program. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to approve Paul Jurjens for a second time repair.
- M. **John O'Reilly Second Time Repair:** Mr. O'Reilly's residence is in the Town of Hardenburgh, Section, Block and Lot number 3.3-3-6.200. This project was paid for in 1998 under the Coordinator Program. Pipe leaving the septic tank is broken. The septic tank was pumped in 2005, 2016 and 2023. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to approve John O'Reilly for a second time repair.
- N. **Arnold Schwarts Second Time Repair:** Mr. Schwarts' property is in the Town of Roxbury Section, Block and Lot number 158-2-11. This project was paid for in 1999 under the Coordinator Program. The pipe leaving the septic tank is broken. The septic tank was pumped in 2005 and 2025. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to approve Arnold Schwarts for a second time repair.
- O. **Patricia Sprott Second Time Repair:** Ms. Sprott's residence is in the Town of Delhi, Section, Block and Lot number 171.18-4-22. This project was paid for in 2009 under the Priority 6 Program. The pump failed. It has been replaced. The system is working again. The septic tank was pumped in 2025. Ms. Sprotte claims to have had the tank pumped regularly but was unaware of the Maintenance Program. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to approve Patricia Sprott for a second time repair.
- P. **Septic Maintenance:** Eric Lane reported that pump out costs were reimbursed to 52 property owners last month. A total of 258 pump out costs have been reimbursed this year.
- Q. **Septic Cluster:** No report.

- R. **Septic Update:** Mitch Hull reported that 16 septic system repair costs were reimbursed to property owners last month. A total of 53 septic system repair costs have been reimbursed this year.
- S. **Other:** Jason reviewed the Septic Program funding chart. Funding is currently available for 47 new septic systems. An invoice has been submitted for an increased quarterly payment of \$4.25 million.

Several Septic Program staff went on June 17 to JB's Line Cleaning and Plumbing in Morris, a distributor of Fuji Clean USA septic system components. Mitch said they were shown several different systems in the shop, then went to sites where they were in operation. Fuji makes a new tank that contains electrode plates to treat phosphorus. JB's has used Fuji units with success to rejuvenate failed absorption fields. Mitch said that it was impressive what they are doing outside the watershed at low costs.

Septic systems with advanced treatment tanks like the Fuji systems are allowed reductions in the size of absorption fields outside the watershed. Without reduced size absorption fields, it costs less to install a septic tank. Matt Gianetta clarified that DEP is bound by 75-A. Pat Palmer said revisions of 75-A standards are in progress. Engineers can apply through NYSDOH to waive trench length requirements. They may not be aware of this.

The Bovina Montessori School septic system is the most expensive project in the Expanded Septic Program. The contractor has a lot of costs to front. We have paid for septic tanks installed before the rest of a system. There are 11 septic tanks in this project. Jason discussed possible structures to pay for the system as it is completed. Art Merrill suggested three payments. Jason wants to pick specific items to pay for as construction continues. He has discussed this with NYCDEP. He does not want this to set a precedent for less expensive systems.

- IV. The next Septic Committee Meeting was scheduled for August 5, 2025.
- VI. The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 AM.