

**Catskill Watershed Corporation
Septic Committee Meeting
August 5, 2025
Draft Minutes**

Attendance:

Committee Members: Arthur Merrill (Director), Tina Molé (Director), Richard Parete (Director), Alicia Terry (Director), George Haynes, Jr. (Director), Allen Hinkley (Director), Thomas Hoyt (Director), Jason Merwin (CWC), John Schwartz (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), Asher Josephson (NYCDEP Intern), 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), Michael Meyers (NYCDEP by Zoom), Dymitry Ostapysyn (NYCDEP by Zoom), 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), Gemma Young (CWC)

- I. Arthur Merrill called the meeting to order at 9 30 AM.
- II. Minutes from the July, 2025 Committee Meeting were reviewed and approved as written.
- III. Septic Program:

- A. **Ethan Hethcote Over \$30,000.00:** Mr. Hethcote's residence is located at 304 Stoddard Hollow Road, Delancey, New York 13752 in the Town of Hamden. CWC staff determined that his septic system is likely to fail. The engineer is Rex Sanford, P.E. The contractor is Mammoth Excavation, Inc. Mr. Hethcote signed into the program on March 17, 2025. His Design Application was received by NYCDEP on April 30, 2025 and deemed complete on May 7, 2025. His septic system design was recommended for NYCDEP Design Approval on May 7, 2025. Mr. Hethcote's two-year deadline is March 17, 2027. His proposed septic system will serve a five-bedroom house. Major components of this system include a 1,500 gallon septic tank, one siphon chamber, 290 linear feet gravity pipe, an effluent filter, one distribution box, 750 square feet of absorption bed, 320 linear feet of access road, spread and reclaim excess material, remove a fence, remove a deck, modify plumbing and site restoration. Three quotes were submitted to the homeowner for this project. They were \$42,355.90, \$43,104.34 and \$44,424.23. The lowest quote, submitted by Mammoth Excavation, Inc., 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 Ethan Hethcote in the amount not to exceed \$42,355.90 to build his septic system.

- B. James McLachlan Over \$30,000.00:** Mr. McLachlan's residence is located at 1329 Pines Brook Road, Walton, New York 13856 in the Town of Walton. CWC staff determined that his septic system is failing. The engineer is Steele Brook Engineering PLLC. The contractor is Ben Reynolds Construction Company, Inc. Mr. McLachlan signed into the program on June 21, 2024. His Design Application was received by NYCDEP on January 17, 2025 and deemed complete on January 23, 2025. His septic system design was recommended for NYCDEP Design Approval on May 2, 2025. Mr. McLachlan's two-year deadline is June 21, 2026. His proposed septic system will serve a five-bedroom house. Major components of this system include a 1,500 gallon septic tank, one pump chamber, 90 linear feet gravity pipe, 75 linear feet of force main, an effluent filter, 301 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 84 cubic yards of random fill material, four peat modules, 85 linear feet of curtain drain, 20 linear feet of curtain drain outlet pipe, 192 linear feet of improved swale, 12 linear feet of six-inch sleeve, 2,000 square feet of jute fabric, remove a culvert, 30 cubic yards of stone and site restoration. Three quotes were submitted to the homeowner for this project. They were \$76,500.00, \$77,875.00 and \$79,712.82. The lowest quote, submitted by Ben Reynolds Construction Company, Inc., 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 James McLachlan in the amount not to exceed \$76,500.00 to build his septic system.
- C. Laura White Over \$30,000.00:** Ms. White's residence is located at 64 Porcupine Road, Grahamsville, New York 12740 in the Town of Denning. CWC staff determined that her septic system is failing. The engineer is Steele Brook Engineering PLLC. The contractor is Mammoth Excavation, Inc. Ms. White signed into the program on November 14, 2023. Her Design Application was received by NYCDEP on May 13, 2025 and deemed complete on May 20, 2025. Her septic system design was recommended for NYCDEP Design Approval on June 3, 2025. Ms. White's two-year deadline is November 14, 2025. Her proposed septic system will serve a three-bedroom house. Major components of this system include a 1,000 gallon septic tank, 110 linear feet of gravity pipe, an effluent filter, one distribution box, 261 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 385 linear feet of absorption trench, 98 linear feet of curtain drain, 18 linear feet of curtain drain outlet pipe, 200 linear feet of access road, remove three standing and a number of down trees, bucket materials, set the tank with a large excavator and site restoration. Three quotes were submitted to the homeowner for this project. They were \$60,344.45, \$62,125.74 and \$62,350.00. The lowest quote, submitted by Mammoth Excavation, Inc., 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 Laura White in the amount not to exceed \$60,344.45 to build her septic system.
- D. Winnisook Inc. Over \$30,000.00:** The Winnisook Club Hunter's Cabin is located at 1816 Oliverea Road, Big Indian New York 12740 in the Town of Shandaken. This project is eligible for 100% reimbursement of reasonable costs through the Expanded Septic Program. CWC staff determined that their septic system is likely to fail. The engineer is Rex Sanford, P.E. The contractor is Estes

Plumbing & Excavation. Frank Slingerland, Winnisook Club President, signed this property into the program on June 18, 2024. The two-year deadline is June 18, 2026. The proposed septic system will serve a two-bedroom house. Major components of this system include a 1,000 gallon septic tank, a pump chamber, 25 linear feet of gravity pipe, 110 linear feet of force main, an effluent filter, one distribution box, 600 square feet of absorption bed, remove 13 trees, spread and reclaim excess material and site restoration. Estes Plumbing & Excavation submitted a quote of \$34,999.99 to the owner for this project. 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 Winnisook, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$34,999.99 to build their septic system.

- E. Robert Barker Additional Costs:** Mr. Barker's residence is located at 2116 Kiff Brook Road, Bloomville, New York 13739 in the Town of Kortright. The engineer is John Bolger, P.E. The contractor is Tweedie Construction Services, Inc. This project was previously approved for \$37,412.00. During installation of the dosing chamber, it was determined that there was not enough elevation to allow gravity flow to the absorption field. The absorption field was relocated further downhill. The contractor had to cut 15 additional trees. A second drywell also had to be decommissioned. The contractor has requested \$3,500.00 for the added work. This amount appears to be reasonable and justifiable. The total project cost will be \$40,912.00. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Robert Barker in the amount not to exceed \$3,500.00 for additional costs to build his septic system.
- F. Veronica Gomez Additional Costs:** Ms. Gomez's residence is located at 61689 State Route 10, Hobart, New York 13788 in the Town of Stamford. CWC staff determined that her septic system is failing. The engineer is Headwaters Engineering PLLC. The contractor is Boyle Excavating Inc. Ms. Gomez signed into the program on November 6, 2024. Her Design Application was received by NYCDEP on April 2, 2025 and deemed complete on April 9, 2025. Her septic system design was recommended for NYCDEP Design Approval on May 9, 2025. Ms. White's two-year deadline is November 6, 2026. Her proposed septic system will serve one eight-bedroom house and a one-bedroom house. This project was previously approved for \$15,763.58 for emergency installations of one 2,500 gallon septic tank and one 1,000 gallon septic tank. Most of the major components include a 2,000 gallon pump chamber, 315 linear feet of gravity pipe, 150 linear feet of force main, two distribution boxes, 910 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 630 linear feet of absorption trench, 145 linear feet of curtain drain, 50 linear feet of curtain drain outlet pipe, 155 linear feet of access road, remove one tree and site restoration. Three quotes were submitted to the homeowner. They were \$99,808.63, \$105,113.00 and \$107,988.53. Staff have determined that a reasonable cost of the one bedroom house is \$10,975.61. This house is eligible for 60% reimbursement. $\$10,975.61 \times 60\% = \$6,585.37$. $\$10,975.61 - \$6,585.37 = \$4,390.24$. $\$99,808.63 - \$4,390.24 = \$95,418.39$. The total project cost will be \$111,181.97. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Veronica

Gomez in the amount not to exceed \$95,418.39 for additional costs to build her septic system.

- G. Nigel Hall Additional Costs:** Mr. Hall's residence is located at 487 Marvin's Way, Bovina, New York 13740 in the Town of Bovina. The engineer is John Bolger, P.E. The contractor is Nicholas Plante. Mr. Hall signed into the program on July 22, 2024. His Design Application was received by NYCDEP on December 1, 2024 and deemed complete on April 2, 2025. His septic system design was recommended for NYCDEP Design Approval on April 9, 2025. Mr. Hall's two-year deadline is July 22, 2026. His proposed septic system will serve a two-bedroom house. This project was approved in 2021 for \$2,310.00 for the installation of a 1,000 gallon septic tank. Most of the major components include a siphon chamber, 125 linear feet of gravity pipe, one distribution box, 373 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 45 cubic yards of random fill material, 180 linear feet of absorption trench, 95 linear feet of curtain drain, 15 linear feet of curtain drain outlet pipe, 95 linear feet of improved swale, 50 linear feet of access road, remove 40 trees, 20 linear feet of six-inch sleeve and site restoration. Three quotes were submitted to the homeowner. They were \$64,040.45, \$65,092.14 and \$69,540.44. The lowest quote, submitted by Nicholas Plante, is within 10% of the staff estimated cost of construction. This is the first project the contractor has had in the Septic Program. The total project cost will be \$66,350.45. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Nigel Hall in the amount not to exceed \$64,040.45 for additional costs to build his septic system.
- H. Selkai Ishizuka Additional Costs:** Mr. Ishizuka's residence is located at 187 Deer Run Road, Denver, New York 12421 in the Town of Roxbury. The engineer is John Bolger, P.E. The contractor is Jim Peters Excavating LLC. This project was previously approved for \$51,963.00. Ledge rock was encountered while installing the septic tank and curtain drain. The contractor hammered for 10.5 hours to attain necessary depths. An additional 75 cubic yards of absorption fill material were needed due to variations in topography. The contractor has requested \$7,495.62 for the added work. This amount appears to be reasonable and justified. The total project cost will be \$59,458.62. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Selkai Ishizuka in the amount not to exceed \$7,495.62 for additional costs to build his septic system.
- I. Douglas McLaurine Additional Costs:** Mr. McLaurine's residence is located at 1190 Lower Meeker Hollow Road, Roxbury, New York 12474 in the Town of Roxbury. The engineer is Steele Brook Engineering PLLC. The contractor is LaFever Excavating Inc. This project was previously approved for \$55,470.00. Large amounts of water were encountered during installation of the tanks. A 50 linear foot curtain drain and 100 linear feet of improved swale were installed to protect the tanks. The contractor has requested \$1,726.00 for the added work. This amount appears to be reasonable and justified. The total project cost will be \$57,196.00. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Douglas McLaurine in the amount not to exceed \$1,726.00 for additional costs to build his septic system.

- J. Andrea Occhi Additional Costs:** Ms. Occhi's residence is located at 2789 Hog Mountain Road, Fleischmanns, New York 12430 in the Town of Middletown. The engineer is Rex Sanford, P.E. The contractor is G.C. Landscaping & Excavation. This project was previously approved for \$44,961.94. Two cesspools were discovered during construction and had to be decommissioned. An additional 41 cubic yards of absorption fill material were needed due to variations in topography. The contractor has requested \$3,914.34 for the added work. This amount appears to be reasonable and justified. The total project cost will be \$48,876.28. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Andrea Occhi in the amount not to exceed \$3,914.34 for additional costs to build her septic system.
- K. Constantine Pengos Additional Costs:** Mr. Pengos' residence is located at 2405 County Highway 36, Margaretville, New York 12455 in the Town of Middletown. The engineer is John Bolger, P.E. The contractor is Harley Jenkins. This project was previously approved for \$49,437.58. An additional 75 linear feet of access road was needed to get materials to the absorption field. Variations in topography required an addition 140 cubic yards of absorption fill material. The contractor has requested \$7,108.05 for the added work. This amount appears to be reasonable and justified. The total project cost will be \$56,545.63. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Constantine Pengos in the amount not to exceed \$7,108.05 for additional costs to build his septic system.
- L. Peggy Pilch Additional Costs:** Ms. Pilch's residence is located at 3515 Honest Brook Road, Delhi, New York 13753 in the Town of Meredith. The engineer is Headwaters Engineering, PLLC. The contractor is A&M Excavating. This project was previously approved for \$46,800.00. Underground utilities were encountered and had to be repaired during installation of the new septic system. The contractor has requested \$1,800.00 for the added work. This amount appears to be reasonable and justified. The total project cost will be \$48,600.00. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Peggy Pilch in the amount not to exceed \$1,800.00 for additional costs to build her septic system.
- M. Jason Roxby Additional Costs:** Mr. Roxby's residence is located at 36 Longyear Road, Shokan, New York 12481 in the Town of Olive. This project is within the proposed Shokan Sewer District. It is a Managed Repair. The engineer is Praetorius & Conrad, P.C. The contractor is L&L Earthworx. Mr. Roxby signed into the program on March 10, 2025. His Design Application was received by NYCDEP on June 17, 2025 and deemed complete on June 23, 2025. His septic system design was recommended for NYCDEP Design Approval on June 24, 2025. Mr. Roxby's two-year deadline is March 10, 2027. His proposed septic system will serve a three-bedroom house. This project was approved \$2,651.00 in 2012 for the installation of a 1,000 gallon septic tank. Most of the major components include 43 linear feet of gravity pipe, one distribution box, 80 cubic yards of absorption fill material, 396 square feet of Eljen units, 18 cubic yards of C-33 sand, 20 linear feet of curtain drain outlet pipe, remove one tree, remove water spigot and site restoration. L&L Earthworx submitted a quote of \$30,747.71 to the homeowner for this project. This amount is within 10% of the

staff estimated cost of construction. The total project cost will be \$33,398.71. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Jason Roxby in the amount not to exceed \$30,747.71 for additional costs to build his septic system.

- N. **Steven Troup Additional Costs:** Mr. Troup's residence is located at 250 Upper Kennedy Heights Road, Margaretville, New York 12455 in the Town of Middletown. The engineer is Steele Brook Engineering PLLC. The contractor is Don Allen Excavating. This project was previously approved for \$72,891.00. Site constraints made it necessary to set the pump chamber closer to the septic tank than planned. An additional riser, cast iron frame and cover were required. The contractor has requested \$938.00 for the added work. Staff determined that a reasonable and justified cost is \$851.00. The total project cost will be \$73,742.00. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Steven Troup in the amount not to exceed \$851.00 for additional costs to build his septic system.

- O. **Timothy Liu Additional Costs:** Mr. Liu's residence is located at 503 Glenford-Wittenberg Road, Bearsville, New York 12409 in the Town of Woodstock. The engineer is Joseph Boek, P.E. The contractor is Mammoth Excavating, Inc. This project is a Second Time Repair. It was previously approved for \$46,001.94. A large amount of groundwater was encountered during installation of the septic tank and pump chamber. The contractor used a dewatering pump. To prevent infiltration into the tanks, 65 linear feet of curtain drain and 35 linear feet of curtain drain outlet pipe were installed. Plumbing in the crawl space had to be modified and raised to prevent system failure. The contractor has requested \$7,4240.30 for the added work. Staff determined that a reasonable and justified cost is \$6,795.05. Costs for a swale and additional pump out were determined to be ineligible. The total project cost will be \$52,796.99. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Timothy Liu in the amount not to exceed \$6,795.05 for additional costs to build his septic system.

- P. **Winnisook Inc. Additional Costs:** The Winnisook Club's Hinkley Cabin is located at 34 Winnisook Club Road, Oliveria, New York 12410 in the Town of Shandaken. The engineer is Rex Sanford, P.E. The contractor is Estes Plumbing & Excavation. This project is eligible for 100% reimbursement through the Expanded Septic Program. It was previously approved for \$29,600.00. Bedrock was encountered during installation of the septic tank. The contractor hammered for 18 hours to attain necessary depth. An electric line in the absorption field area also had to be relocated. The contractor has requested \$8,782.50 for the added work. This amount appears to be reasonable and justified. The total project cost will be \$38,382.50. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse Winnisook Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$8,782.50 for additional costs to build their septic system.

- Q. **37 Alpine Road Property, LLC Additional Costs:** The Slide Mountain Forest House System Two is located at 805 Oliveria Road, Big Indian, New York 12410 in the Town of Shandaken. The engineer is Rex Sanford, P.E. The contractor is

Josh Construction. This project is eligible for 100% reimbursement through the Expanded Septic Program. It was previously approved for \$124,578.81. The absorption field had to be dug deeper to achieve sufficient cover. An additional 24 cubic yards of stone were required. The contractor has requested \$1,664.16 for the added work. This amount appears to be reasonable and justified. The total project cost will be \$126,242.97. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to reimburse 37 Alpine Road Property, LLC in the amount not to exceed \$1,664.16 for additional costs to build their septic system.

- R. **Vicky Bush Second Time Repair:** Ms. Bush's residence is in the Town of Walton, Section, Block and Lot number 250-2-26. This project was paid for in 2007 under the Priority 4 Program. Sewage is surfacing in the absorption field. The septic tank was pumped in 2012 and 2023. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to approve Vicky Bush for a second time repair.
- S. **David Davis Second Time Repair:** Mr. Davis' residence is in the Town of Walton, Section, Block and Lot number 250-2-22. This project was paid for in 2008 under the Priority 3 Program. Large amounts of water run off a hill above the tanks and peat modules. A curtain drain needs to be installed to protect the system. The septic tank was pumped in 2015. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to approve David Davis for a second time repair.
- T. **Leslie Drinkwater Second Time Repair:** Mr. Drinkwater's residence is in the Town of Walton, Section, Block and Lot number 186-3-19.2. This project was paid for in 2009 under the Priority 5 Program. The pump stopped working. It has been replaced. The septic tank was pumped in 2016 and 2025. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to approve Leslie Drinkwater for a second time repair.
- U. **Harold Koch Second Time Repair:** Mr. Koch's residence is in the Town of Windham, Section, Block and Lot number 79.00-3-22. This project was paid for in 2004 under the Reimbursement Program. The pump alarm has been going off. The pump likely needs to be replaced. We have no pump outs on record. Mr. Koch purchased the property in 2023. He does not know what the previous owner did to maintain the system. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to approve Harold Koch for a second time repair.
- V. **George Nicholes Second Time Repair:** Mr. Nicholes' property is in the Town of Prattsville, 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.
- W. **Guy Oddo Second Time Repair:** Mr. Oddo's residence is in the Town of Hurley, Section, Block and Lot number 47.1-3-25. This project was paid for in 2001

under the Coordinator Program. Sewage is backing up into the house. The level in the septic tank is high and the outlet baffle has deteriorated. The septic tank was pumped in 2007. There was discussion over whether a septic system is harmed by not pumping the tank. It may be. Pump out needs vary according to the number of people living in the house and water use. Mr. Oddo lives alone. Staff have tried to be proactive on social media. Magnets with maintenance advice are popular. Mitch and Eric were on a podcast. A lot of new owners have moved here who were on community systems and do not understand how onsite systems work. They do not know the Maintenance Program exists to help them. Staff answer calls from realtors who try to pass program information on to buyers. Staff will be at the Delaware County Fair next week. The most often asked questions there are about Septic Programs. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to approve Guy Oddo for a second time repair.

X. Marilyn Tuttle Second Time Repair: Ms. Tuttle's property is in the Town of Windham, Section, Block and Lot number 113.00-1-15. This project was paid for in 2007 under the Priority 4 Program. The septic tank is in poor condition and needs to be replaced. The owner had a maintenance pump out in 2024. The Committee recommended that a resolution be brought before the Board of Directors to approve Marilyn Tuttle for a second time repair.

Y. Nathan Rittgarn Septic Appeal: Tim reviewed Mr. Rittgarn's appeal. His residence is located at 37 Albert Slater Road, Prattsville, New York 12468. In 2007. A previous owner installed a holding tank. There is no absorption field. A holding tank does not meet the definition of a sub-surface treatment system. There is no treatment. DEP had sent the previous owner a letter in 2005 and issued a Notice of Failure in 2006. The contract for the Septic Program limits eligibility to treatment systems. DEP allows holding tanks for weekend and commercial uses. The previous owner should have taken care of it. The Committee recommended denying Nathan Rittgarn's request for an appeal.

Z. Septic Maintenance: Eric Lane reported that pump out costs were reimbursed to 107 property owners last month. A total of 365 pump out costs have been reimbursed this year. Eric completes a chart of allocated funds each month. Design costs of the Windham Septage Acceptance project are using up funds left. Jason is working with DEP to alleviate this. We may be able to invoice early for the next funds. We do not want confidence issues with this program.

AA. Septic Cluster: No report.

BB. Septic Update: Mitch Hull reported that 45 septic system repair costs were reimbursed to property owners last month. A total of 98 septic system repair costs have been reimbursed this year. This is 16 behind last year.

CC. Other:

IV. The next Septic Committee Meeting was scheduled for September 2, 2025.

VI. The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 AM.