

CWC POLICY COMMITTEE

October 7, 2025

Minutes

Members Present: Shilo Williams, Richard Parete, Tina Molé, Alicia Terry, Chris Mathews, Innes Kasanof

Excused: Thomas Snow

- I. Called to order at 10:13 am
- II. September, 2025 unanimously approved upon motion of Alicia Terry and second by Chris Mathews

III. 2024 Annual Meeting and Election Schedule

Tim Cox provided a schedule for possible annual meeting dates, both the traditional first Tuesday in April, as well as three Tuesdays in July. Tim explained that an annual meeting of CWC is required by CWC's By-Laws, and the Board could still hold the annual meeting in April and a different event in the summer. Tim noted that the terms of directors expiring in 2026 would be extended to whenever the annual meeting is held. Jason Merwin explained that April was a difficult month to invite State elected officials. Upon motion of Innes Kasanof and second by Alicia Terry, the Committee unanimously recommended that the 2026 CWC Annual Meeting be held on July 14, 2026.

IV. Water Withdrawal Permit

Tim Cox explained that background of both the FAD and Water Withdrawal Permit and that CWC's programs are conditions of each. He stressed that each of those provided independent enforcement authority to NYSDOH and NYSDEC. He continued that on September 5, 2025, DEP advised CWC that they had submitted a draft Water Withdrawal Permit to NYSDEC and that our programs were not included. Tim noted that Paragraph 85 of the MOA requires that the watershed programs be a condition of the permit and that the draft would not be shared with CWC. Tim continued that since then, a DEP attorney advised that the draft permit submittal did include programs required by a FAD. The Coalition of Watershed Towns held a special meeting and passed a resolution asking NYSDEC Commissioner to bring stakeholders back to negotiations. Delaware County, Schoharie County, and the Greene County Mountaintop Supervisors and Mayors Association also passed similar resolutions. Tim stated that a draft side agreement had recently been received from DEP. Tim ended that a resolution modeled on the Coalition's resolution but updated appears in the Board Book.

Jason Merwin expressed his frustration to DEP at pulling out of negotiations. Jeff Senterman stated that negotiations are never easy but he believed that at the time DEP pulled out of negotiations, they were close to a resolution. Jeff continued that this is the deepest crack in the Watershed MOA.

Shilo Williams responded that she heard their statements and DEP had made a decision to withdraw from negotiations and speak directly to NYSDEC. She agreed that a side agreement was close to being completed. She also remarked that NYCDEP did not want State DOH and DEC requirements to be in conflict. She also confirmed that the MOA was important to DEP.

Pat Palmer, NYSDOH stated that FAD working group had been meeting for 3 ½ years. He noted that NYSDEC had not released a draft Water Withdrawal Permit and following its expiration in December, only recreational uses and payment of taxes would be required concerning DEP land. Pat stated that in Spring, 2026 discussions would commence for the next FAD.

Shilo Williams continued that the side agreement was intended to continue funding of the watershed partnership programs. She noted that it was unlikely NYSDEC would issue a Water Withdrawal Permit before the current one expired.

Jeff Senterman noted that NYSDEC is not present and the situation is not solely the City's fault.

Jason asked Shilo Williams why DEP could not share a draft of the permit submitted to NYSDEC.

Shilo Williams responded that DEP is hopeful to come back to the negotiating table soon.

Upon motion of Alicia Terry and seconded by Tina Molé, the Committee recommended that CWC Board approve the Water Withdrawal resolution. Shilo Williams voted nay.

- V. Next Meeting scheduled for November 4, 2025
- VI. Adjourned at 11:13 am