

**Coalition of Watershed Towns Meeting Minute**  
**January 16, 2012**

Present: Pete Bracci, Bill Layton, Carl Stuendel, and Bruce Dolph (Delaware County); Dennis Lucas and Stephen Walker (Greene County); Bruce LaMonda and Rob Stanley (Ulster County); Tony VanGlad (Schoharie County), Ric Coombe (Sullivan County). Jeff Baker – Counsel.

1. **December meeting minutes** – motion to accept December minutes made by Carl Stuendel, seconded by Bruce LaMonda with all present in favor

**2. Privilege of the floor**

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- Michelle Yost reminded members the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Watershed Summit is this Saturday at the Hunter Elementary School. Presentations and training workshops are on post flood recovery efforts from Hurricane Irene. CWT members are welcome.
- Carl S. read a letter from a constituent, Don Martin, expressing concern whether DEP is purchasing land with the intent to sell the natural gas rights should hydro-fracking be approved. Jeff Baker assured members that is not the case. The NYC watershed is off limits for drilling. State and federal agencies overseeing the process are not pushing for drilling anywhere in NYS at this time, let alone in the city watershed. When DEP purchases conservation easements, the landowner reserves the right to extract resources contingent on the easement terms, though gas rigs are not allowed on eased properties. The DEP could get royalties if they are contiguous to landowners allowing drilling on their land. When the procedure is deemed safe and passes stringent requirements in NYS, the DEP could lease their land for extracting the gas like any other landowner. Baker noted DEC regulations are more stringent than neighboring states and he feels it will be quite some time before it is allowed in NYS.