

Coalition of Watershed Towns Meeting Minute
June 18, 2012

Present: Bill Layton, Carl Stuendel, Peter Bracci, Bruce Dolph (Delaware County); Dennis Lucas and Stephen Walker (Greene County); Tony VanGlad (Schoharie County). Jeff Baker – Counsel.

6:10 PM start

1. **May meeting minutes** – motion to accept May minutes made by Dennis Lucas, seconded by Tony Van Glad with all present in favor.

2. **Privilege of the Floor**

- Dean F. noted the boating program on DEP reservoirs has been going well and expanded to other reservoirs (Schoharie, Neversink, Pepacton) as anticipated from the pilot program on the Cannonsville. Tony V. said the ribbon cutting for the Schoharie Reservoir boating program went well, there were approx. 18 different boats and crafts. The Pepacton Reservoir had about 80 boats/crafts when the season opened on May 25, 2012. A goal of the expanded watershed recreational program is to promote local business, as envisioned by Delaware County Supervisor John Meredith (deceased) and Pete Bracci when they spearheaded the effort in 2008. Bill L. shared the City is considering allowing electric motor use on the Cannonsville as another pilot program, such as trolling motor for fishing.
- Pete B. said the City is closing three stream monitoring stations in Delaware County. The county is writing a letter requesting they not be eliminated because of the data they provide for the stream management program and flood alerts.
 - Concurring with Delaware County, a motion was made by Dennis Lucas, seconded by Tony Van Glad, with all present in favor that the CWT encourage the City to maintain the gages and keep them operating for the benefit of stream managers and the public that use the information.

3. **Flood Mitigation Work Group update**

- County and regulatory agencies continue to work on the development of new flood hazard mitigation supports for West of Hudson communities.
- Michelle Y. shared the model being discussed is based on conducting a flood hazard mitigation analysis for areas that have experienced repetitive flood damage, with the goal of identifying remediation options to reduce flood risks for that particular area. Once analyses are conducted, communities need support in implementing prioritized recommendations which may require leveraging funds from other sources, such as FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program. The DEP is not considering funding planning staff, they feel county agencies need to contribute in-kind as with planning support.
- Steve W. noted flood mitigation planning support should be at the county level, not by individual communities because of potential downstream effects
- Dean F. shared clarification is needed on projects that get funded through the CWC Flood Hazard Mitigation Program vs. those within SWCD contracts
- SWCDs are working on contract negotiations for the next five years starting in 2014 and will be requesting additional funds for FHM. The CWT is available to assist

Districts that may need it in light of the discussions on capturing additional FHM monies.

- Many details still need to be worked out but there has been progress with DEP indicating they are willing to fund additional monies for FHM projects but not for additional staffing.
- Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) funding through the NRCS agency, DEP is covering the 25% match for EWP-funded projects that fit with its water quality criteria, but not all EWP projects are receiving DEP support. Aaron B. shared out of many sites identified in Ulster County, one is slated to go forward this year (funding and time constraints)

4. **Raise for Young and Sommer/**Jeff Baker – because legal fees have remained constant since 1998, a request to increase from \$150 to \$175 was made. A question was raised whether an evaluation should be done first, but after a short time deliberating, the committee approved the raise recognizing the invaluable service Jeff Baker brings to the Coalition's work. Increasing Young & Sommer legal rates from \$150 to \$175 was made on a motion by Steve Walker, seconded by Carl Stuendel with all present in favor.
5. Bruce Dolph reviewed the **May Treasurer's Report**: there is \$112,304.10 in Savings and \$1,000.70 in Checking.
6. **2012 dues status** – a reminder letter will be sent out to communities that have not paid the 2012 dues yet.

7:30 PM meeting adjourned on motion by Dennis Lucas, seconded by Bruce LaMonda with all present in favor.