

**Coalition of Watershed Towns Meeting Minute
November 19, 2012**

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

6:10 PM start

1. **Henry Rank** – Chairman Lucas recognized a moment of silence honoring Henry Rank’s service to the watershed and his community of Olive. Henry passed away on November 4, 2012.
2. **September meeting minutes** – motion to accept September minutes made by Carl Stuendel, seconded by Steven Walker with all present in favor.
3. **Sullivan County executive committee member change** – Bryan Delaney has resigned from the CWT board due to resigning from the Neversink town board; he took a position as the town assessor prompting his resignation from the town board and subsequently the CWT board. Ric Coombe is the primary member and Mike Mullens, alternate for Sullivan County.

4. Catskill Flood Work Group Update and post Hurricane Sandy impacts

- Jeff Baker reported things have been quiet, attention has been directed to recovery from Hurricane Sandy.
- Funding for the new Flood Hazard Mitigation program remains to be seen in light of Hurricane Sandy’s damages. Initial figures will be revisited. Base funding for existing agencies (CWC, SWCDs, WAC) to continue implementing watershed protection programs should be fine, as these existing obligations and program needs remain. It is unlikely new money will go toward the Land Acquisition Program (LAP) after this costly hurricane.
- Carl S. acknowledged the letter from the CWT that went to Mayor Bloomberg and NYCDEP expressing sympathy for their situation in the wake of Hurricane Sandy.
- It is unclear when NYS DOH is going to rule on the FAD mid-term revisions. Baker said there’s no specific timeframe or deadline, and a draft document hasn’t come out yet.
- On a related note, Kevin Young, Young and Sommer, sent Pam Young, NYSDOH, a letter suggesting the finalized agreements on the new FHMP be incorporated in the Mid-term FAD document along with deadlines for contract negotiations with the county contract agencies. The letter was written after consultation with Delaware and Greene Counties, mainly to link individual program contracts with future FHMP funding.

5. Development of Riparian Buffer Acquisition Program

- The working group met last week, they still have a long way to go, hoping to have a draft program report by January 2013 and finalized in spring/summer. The goal would be to start implementing in summer 2013.
- There are differences of opinion how to implement program, including what

constitutes sufficient buffer areas on smaller parcels vs. larger parcels; should buffers in village, hamlet areas be considered; where does it make most sense to purchase buffer rights; how should they be valued, what is a measurable fair market value; should there be a minimum 150' or use FIRM floodplain boundary; is there value to small, narrow buffers?

- Once up and running, ownership of eased or purchased buffers will be DEP, municipality or a land trust.

6. Status of developing hydro-electricity on DEP infrastructure

- Pete B. questioned whether there was a role for CWT to revive the hydro-electric idea on city owned infrastructure. CWT passed a resolution in April 2012 to encourage the DEP to move the permitting process along in an efficient manner, which appears to be happening. e.g., they are moving forward with an RFP for applications on the Cannonsville Reservoir (put out on 11/2/12).
- The Delaware County Electric Cooperative (DCEC) invested \$600,000 in feasibility and engineering studies, which did not get them very far in the process. They are reluctant to put any more time or money in the effort, and without a principle involved to advocate for local needs, it doesn't make much sense for CWT to be involved other than if DEP misses a deadline in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) process.
- The CWT is registered in the FERC system and gets notices on how the process is moving forward.

7. Endorsement of documentary in next FAD

- In its comments for the mid term FAD review, GCSWCD suggested funding for a national broadcast documentary on the city reservoir system, the historic MOA and current programming. Carl S. commented with the passing of leaders involved in the development of NYC watershed policy and programming, such as the MOA, there should be an effort to preserve this story, and perhaps in the process inspire others to get involved.
- Georgianna L. and Alan R. said CWC is funding an exhibit at the Time and Valley Museums in Grahamsville on the [Neversink and Roundout Watersheds](#). There have been various educational efforts over the years on pieces of the watershed story (Nancy Burnett's interviews on the making of the MOA; building the reservoirs). Directing a current version inclusive of the many facets of the watershed agreement, programming, the politics, challenges involving climate change, etc. would take a lot of scoping and funding.

8. Watershed Summit, January 26, 2013 – Dennis and Michelle reviewed the 7th annual Schoharie Watershed Summit will focus on options for reducing flood impacts with a good line up of presenters. Jeff Baker will speak about the Flood Hazard Mitigation Implementation Program under the CWT umbrella. CWT members are welcome to attend. GCSWCD has an RSVP date of January 18, 2013.

9. Bills and Treasurer's Report – motion to pay September and October 2012 Young and Sommer bills and WAP 3rd quarterly administrative assistance bill on motion by Ric Coombe, seconded by Bill Layton and carried unanimously. The October Treasurer's

Report notes \$1,000.23 is in the Checking account and \$84,583.36 in Savings.

10. Communications

- Letter from CWC on the Shandaken request to amend CWC Septic Repair and Rehabilitation Program rules. Jeff Baker reported though he doesn't necessarily agree with the analysis, individual homeowners in the proposed sewer district area of Phoenicia can still apply for funding assistance if they get a Notice of Violation, and will get priority attention. The businesses however would not be eligible for funding assistance.

7:25 PM meeting adjourned on motion by Carl Stundel seconded by Bruce LaMonda with all present in favor.