

Coalition of Watershed Towns

c/o Delaware County Department of Watershed Affairs
1 Courthouse Square, Suite 3
Delhi, New York 13753
Phone: 607-746-8914, Fax: 607-746-8836

Executive Committee

Peter Bracci
Town of Delhi Supervisor
607-746-9882

Ric Coombe
Neversink Councilman
845-295-2717

Bruce Dolph
Town of Walton
Supervisor
607-865-5042

Bill Layton
Tompkins Supervisor
607-865-6310

Bruce LaMonda
Olive Councilman
845-657-2467

Michael McCrary
Jewett Councilman
518-263-4408

Ulster County
Vacant

Carl Stuendel, Chairman
Tompkins Councilman
(Delaware Co. Alternate)
(607) 865-7780

Anthony Van Glad
Gilboa Supervisor
607-652-7590

Stephan Walker
Town of Windham
518-734-4170

July 8, 2013

Dear Fellow Coalition of Watershed Town (CWT) Members,

As you know Dennis Lucas' term as Chairman and Executive Committee member expired this spring after over a decade of service. We will miss him and his unwavering commitment and service to the CWT. The years of experience lost with his departure will be a challenge to replace.

Related to that, the CWT recently completed elections for new Executive Committee members. Additionally, new officers of the Executive Committee were voted into office on Monday June 17, 2013. I am writing to inform you with regard to these changes and others that recently occurred. I'll start by introducing myself. I am Carl Stuendel, a Town of Tompkins Council-member from Delaware County and have served on the CWT executive committee since January 2010 and as the Vice-chair since September 2011. In the recent election, I was elected to the executive committee as an alternate. I was surprised and honored to be elected as Chairman of the Coalition by members of the Executive Committee. This is an unusual circumstance, however our counsel advised that an alternate can serve as Chairman, but does not have a vote unless another executive committee member, in this case, from Delaware County is absent. With that bit of information aside, I look forward to serving your interests as Chairman for the CWT and welcome your input and inquiries as to the actions and activities of the CWT.

New changes on the Executive Committee include:

Greene County: Mike McCrary, Town of Jewett Councilman; Anthony Coiro (Alternate), Town of Hunter Councilman; Dixie Baldrey (Alternate), Supervisor Town of Lexington.

Delaware County: Bruce Dolph (new regular member & new Vice-chair), Supervisor Town of Walton; Carl Stuendel (new CWT Chairman), Town of Tompkins Councilman; Cindy Donofrio (Alternate), Supervisor Town of Colchester.

Schoharie County: Anthony VanGlad (new CWT treasurer), Supervisor Town of Gilboa.

Sullivan County : Mike Mullens (Alternate), Town of Neversink Councilman.

Ulster County: Linda Burghardt, Town of Olive Councilwoman. Bruce LaMonda (long time alternate on the Executive Committee was elected as a regular member), Town of Olive Councilman. Since only one member from Ulster County was elected as a regular member, by the terms of the CWT Agreement, upon resolution at the next Executive Committee meeting, Linda will be designated a regular member of the Executive Committee.

These new members to the Executive Committee (and old members in new positions) join long-standing members: Greene County's Stephen Walker, Supervisor Town of Windham; Delaware County's Peter Bracci, Supervisor Town of Walton, William Layton, Supervisor Town of Tompkins, and John Van Benschoten (Alternate), Village of Margaretville Trustee; Schoharie County's Mike Brandow, Supervisor Town of Conesville; and Sullivan County's Ric Coombe, Town of Neversink Councilman. And Jeff Baker (Young/Sommer LLC) continues in his role as the CWT's attorney.

The administrative responsibilities of the CWT have been changed from the Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to Delaware County. A big thank you to the Greene County SWCD, especially Michelle Yost. Correspondence and bills sent to the CWT should now be mailed to:

The Delaware County Department of Watershed Affairs
C/O Coalition of Watershed Towns
Courthouse Square, Suite 3
Delhi, New York 13753.

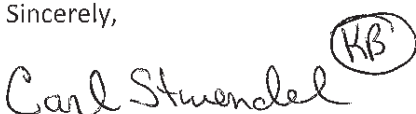
The CWT, representing the watershed communities, took the lead role negotiating the Water Supply Permit (WSP) with NYC signed in December 2010. A hallmark of the WSP was an agreement with NYC on a methodology to determine the value of reservoir lands underwater, impoundments, water and waste treatment facilities. The possibility now exists for all parties involved in assessment disputes with the City to stay out of the courts and extremely expensive legal proceedings. This Tax Litigation Avoidance Program (TLAP) will be administered by Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) and communities facing such issues can apply for this program through CWC. Another extremely significant component of the WSP was the agreement with NYC to extend the designated boundaries of hamlets in the watershed making them a hands-off area to NYC land acquisition. CWT will continue to monitor adherence to all aspects of the WSP.

One of the most pressing issues facing the Coalition Executive Committee is assisting the counties in the West of Hudson Watershed in their ongoing negotiations with the City to implement a Flood Hazard Mitigation Program. In view of changing weather patterns and the increasing frequency of severe and destructive storms (e.g., Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, Superstorm Sandy), a flood mitigation program seems an even more effective strategy to ensure water quality than land-acquisition.

Closely related to flood mitigation is the issue of turbidity control to protect water quality for both New York City water users and downstream residents of the affected rivers and streams. Some studies suggest that turbidity (clay silt) in the waters of the Schoharie and Ashokan reservoirs could be alleviated by a rigorous Stream Bank Program. At present there is insufficient funding for such. Beyond the adverse impact to drinking water, this same turbid water is routed through the Ashokan Reservoir spillway spoiling fish habitats of the lower Esopus, which in turn affects the economic viability of our down-stream neighbors. The CWT will continue to work with member towns on this issue as well as advocating for continued discussions about how the reservoirs can be managed to maximize storm retention capabilities while meeting the needs of New York City residents and the obligations to maintain flow levels below the dams.

The CWT will continue to be a resource for member communities seeking assistance on watershed issues. Please feel free to contact your representative on the Executive Committee or myself if you have any concerns. The CWT is also looking to promote further opportunities in the watershed such as increasing recreational use of lands and reservoirs and the development of the hydroelectric potential of the dams. We also welcome any suggestions you may have.

Sincerely,



Carl Stuenkel
CWT Chairman