

NEWS from the Catskill Watershed Corp

Contact: Samantha Costa, Communication/Education Coordinator

845-586-1400 ext. 104

scosta@cwconline.org

CWC Annual Meeting, Election of Officers, and 2019 Report

ARKVILLE, August 4, 2020: A large crowd of Watershed officials, state and federal agency representatives and regional partners attended the Catskill Watershed Corporation's (CWC) Annual Meeting of CWC Member Towns on August 4 via ZOOM due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Attendees included Patrick Palmer from New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Water Supply Protection, and other colleagues from that agency, and from the NYC Department of Environmental Protection Paul Rush, Deputy Commissioner, along with colleagues. Representatives from NYS Department of State, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and many local town supervisors attended the meeting remotely. Also, on the video conference was Marilyn Gelber, a former Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner, who was instrumental in bringing together City representatives and local watershed officials during the Watershed MOA negotiations.

They joined CWC Board and staff for a review of 2019 accomplishments, and to welcome the newest Board members; Joseph Cetta, Supervisor of the Town of Walton and Mark Tuthill, Supervisor of the Town of Delhi, who were elected by fellow Delaware County Watershed Town Supervisors and Thomas Hoyt, Supervisor for the Town of Windham was elected by fellow Greene County watershed town supervisors. Outgoing Delaware County representatives Wayne Marshfield, a member of the Board since 2004, was lauded for his service to the organization as chair of CWC's Septic Committee as well as our outgoing Board President Michael Triolo who served on the Board since 2012, and previously served as CWC's Director of Economic Development beginning in 2003. Outgoing Greene County representative Robert Pelham who also served on our Board since 2012 was commended on his service to the organization.

The Board then unanimously elected Tina Molé as the new CWC Board President. Ms. Molé is Chairwoman of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors and Town Supervisor of the Town of Bovina. She has served on the CWC Board of Directors since 2004, was also reelected to a four-year term on the CWC Board in 2020. Other officers elected included Richard Parete of Marbletown as First Vice-President, Innes Kasanof of Halcott as Second Vice-President, Christopher Matthews of Neversink as Third Vice-President, James Eisel of Harpersfield as Treasurer, and Anthony Van Glad of Gilboa as Secretary

The 2019 Annual Report was released at the meeting and can be viewed at cwconline.org (Documents). A link to a video summary of the year's actions can be found on the Resources page of the CWC website www.cwconline.org. To get a paper copy of the annual report, call 845-586-1400, or email scosta@cwconline.org.

Among the highlights of the report:

- 241 failed residential septic systems were replaced through grants to homeowners. Primary residents reimbursed 100 percent of eligible costs, part-time residents were

reimbursed 60 percent. Three classes for septic designers and contractors were offered in 2019.

- 340 septic systems installed since 1995 were pumped and inspected; CWC covered half the cost for each maintenance visit.
- Community Wastewater Management Projects in Shandaken, West Conesville, Halcottsville and Claryville advanced towards completion. New Kingston is in the land acquisition stage and Shokan, is still in the study phase.
- Several residential and commercial fuel tanks were anchored under the Flood Hazard Mitigation Implementation Program. Funds were also awarded under this program to investigate options for flood proofing homes, municipal buildings, businesses, and institutions.
- The CWC reimbursed 16 property owners for costs of NYCDEP required stormwater controls. These ranged through all five counties. Some of these projects included a new convenience store in the Town of Conesville, Frost Valley YMCA, Bovina Farm and Fermentory, Windham Equipment Rentals, Dollar General in the Town of Neversink, and the Ulster County Rail Trail. Five previously funded projects received operation and maintenance support.
- Eleven low-interest loans were approved for businesses in Watershed Towns through the CWC's Catskill Fund for the Future. These included the M-ark Project, Inc., Starlite Motel LLC, Stony Clove Ventures LLC, The Caelan Allen Corp., J K & Sons Fuel Oil Inc., Zandhoek Properties LLC, Argos Property Management, LLC, High Falls Pizza LLC, Nada Land Co., Inc., Tito Bandito's LLC, and Danielle's Pizza Shop, LLC. Other economic development initiatives included administrating the Catskill Master Plan Stewardship and Planning Project and the Greater Catskill Park Recreation Plan. Collaborative efforts were supported to enhance tourism and outdoor recreation in the Catskills, such as the Reservoir Boating Program, which drew 1,300 kayaks and canoes to four NYC reservoirs in 2019.
- 33 Watershed Education Grants were awarded to schools and non-profit organizations in the Catskill-Delaware Watershed and in New York City.

The new building to house CWC, NYC DEP staff and The Water Discovery Center on County Highway 38 in Arkville reached substantial completion in 2019.

The building is now complete and CWC staff has moved in. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the building remains closed to the public.

CWC is a not-for-profit local development corporation responsible for several environmental protection, economic development, and education programs in the New York City Watershed West of the Hudson River. All thirty-nine towns within the New York City Watershed West of the Hudson River are members of CWC.