

**ORANGE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
124 Main Street, Goshen, NY and Live Streamed on Zoom.us**

Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2023

- I. Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 1:09 PM
Roll call completed – 6/7 Quorum

Board Members Present: Dominic Cordisco
 Erik Denega
 Peter Tuohy
 Louis Ingrassia
 Steve Gagnon

Staff Present: Eenika Cruz, Administrator

II. Consent Calendar

- a. **April 11, 2023 Minutes** – Erik Denega made a motion to approve the April Board Meeting Minutes. Wayne Vradenburgh seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion passed unanimously.
- b. **May 2023 Demands List** – Erik Denega made a motion to approve the May Demands List. Wayne Vradenburgh seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion passed unanimously.
- c. **Year-to-Date Budget** – Year to date budget was reviewed.

III. Annual Audit of Financials and Internal Controls

Justin Wood, lead auditor of Nugent and Haeussler presented the 2022 Annual Audit of Financials and Internal Controls. He thanked the administrator Eenika for her hard work in preparing for the audit each year. The auditor gave OCWA a clean opinion which is the highest level of confidence for an audit. One finding noted in the audit was the lack separation of duties, which is very common due to the size of the entity where one person handles all the work. The auditor gave an overview of each of the sections of the audit including budget in which OCWA underspent, profit and loss, detailed expenses, statement of net position, payables, assets like land easements, and so on. A motion to accept the 2022 Audit of Financials and Internal Controls as presented by Nugent and Haeussler was made by Louis Ingrassia. The motion was seconded by Erik Denega. Hearing no objections, the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Executive Director's Report

- a. **Newburgh WQIP Update** – A brief overview of the project was made for Steve, OCWA's new board member. Staff from the Orange County Land Trust (OCLT) were present and provided an update on the project. Due to the small number of properties around Brown's Pond and the current uses of some of the parcels the field of prospective projects are limited. OCWA completed two rounds of outreach to landowners and only a few responded. The next step would be to make direct contact with landowners by phone or by knocking on doors. The project is not eligible for any further grant extensions so all work must be completed by the end of next year (December 2024). OCLT stated it will take about a year to close on properties and/or conservation easement. The board wished to discuss OCLT's contract and negotiation. A motion was made by Wayne Vradenburgh to go into executive session to discuss a contract and negotiation. The motion was seconded by Louis Ingrassia. Hearing no objections, the executive session was approved and entered into at 1:28 PM. Erik Denega made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Louis Ingrassia. Hearing no objections, the board came

out of executive session at 1:44 PM. No action was taken. OCLT then gave an update as to other work they were currently involved in including a possible new park with hiking and biking trails and watershed protection in Port Jervis. They are also involved in the Sugar Loaf project. OCLT agreed to attend OCWA's meeting in June to provide an update on the project.

- b. Ulster Landfill Resolution Discussion – A resolution passed by the Town of Newburgh was shared with the board. The board wondered where the landfill project was in the process and what the environmental impact would be. Could the OCWA be an interested party to receive updates? What are OCWA's options?

V. Other Business

None other business was discussed

VI. Next Board Meeting

The next OCWA Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 1:00 PM at 124 Main Street in Goshen.

VII. Adjournment

Peter Tuohy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Erik Denega seconded the motion. Hearing no comments, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.