

WQCC Virtual Board Meeting Notes for April 18, 2023

DRAFT

Attendance: Tolly Beck, Natalie Browne, Matt Ceplo, Jim Delaune, Marcus Octaviano, Anna Palmer, Brianna Rosamilia (RCDER), Rich Schiafo,

Call to Order: Matt Ceplo, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Matt introduced Jim Delaune from the Orange County Land Trust (OCLT). His presentation is on the Orange County Land Trust and its' relationship with Orange County government, current projects, and future opportunities.

Program Summary:

The OCLT was created in 1993, as a reaction to the loss of farmland and unbridled development in Orange County, NY. The OCLT is a legally created entity in the business of land protection. They work closely with the Peter and Lucia Buck Foundation which provides grants to charitable organizations. Currently OCLT is trying to protect a forest area near Greenwood Lake in the town of Warwick on farmland that the trust owns. The OCLT is also working on purchasing 345 acres at Sugar Loaf with loans from the Buck Foundation as well as Scenic Hudson. There is also a handshake agreement with NYS Parks that they will acquire this land to become part of Goose Pond Mountain State Park. Next will be the protection of forest near Greenwood Lake in the town of Warwick on farmland that the trust owns.

OCLT has helped to protect nearly 6,500 acres of land through the negotiation of conservation agreements with private landowners. They work with partners like the Buck Foundation, the Open Space Institute, and Scenic Hudson to help secure funding. The Buck Foundation would be interested in working with both Rockland and Ulster Counties in a move to become more regional. If there is political will in Rockland the county could receive funding as well as boots on the ground.

A period of questions and answers followed.

Rich Schiafo said that an introduction to the Rockland Planning Commissioner and the County Executive should come next.

Treasurer's Report: Matt reported the WQCC budget remains unchanged.

Old Business: Matt reported that the WQ Task Force job remains open, and interviews are continuing.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the WQCC will be on September 19th at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment: Matt adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.