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HVADC Board Meeting

September 12, 2013

Draft Minutes

Members present: Dave Church, Dennis Doyle, Mark Doyle, Eric Ooms, Janet Crawshaw, Todd Erling & Mary Ann Johnson

Minutes: The board received and approved minutes from June 4, 2013.

Financials – Board received and approved the P&L and Balance Sheet. Todd explained we brought on a consultant, Miriam Latzer, to assist with Farm Hub program with New World funding.

Todd noted there are some recommendations to adjust the budget for the Board to review. We can address at the next meeting if the board desires. Mark asked about the receivables and Todd explained which clients were included. Mary Ann noted the receivables can be longer term and includes IWW client receivables which we do not invoice for until the project is completed.

Todd noted one amendment is for the FTC CFA – we need to record the income and associated expenses.

The Board and Todd discussed the recent review with the auditors of the completed 2012 financials, audit and returns. The Board reviewed the material and specifically spent time on the Management and Communication letter drafted and submitted by the auditors.

Dennis asked how do we get the economic development/funding streams get incorporated into the Ag & Markets county planning process? Is there an opportunity to talk with the commissioner about funding priorities? Yes – Todd and Mary Ann agreed it was possible. Dennis is suggesting that the land trusts should be encouraged to lobby for farm viability similar to their efforts on land conservation. Dave noted that Ag & Markets is not a partner in the state open space planning effort.

Dennis thinks the Ag & Markets are chronically underfunded – CCE & S&W are also significantly challenged yet we have money to save land.

Mark noted it will need to become a policy decision and not try to compete with the farmland preservation voices. We should be trying to engage the relatively few who will make the decision.

Dennis noted land preservation is local and the state should be focusing on the economic development and less state money on land preservation. Todd explained we did get some funding from the state at the beginning of the organization's existence.

Todd explained the Sullivan Co distribution project earned an interview with the Mid-Hudson region council and that the project was deemed a priority. The project was the only agricultural project in the region. Also one of the few projects that was inter-regional.

Mark referred back to the CC Ag & Farmland protection plan. He noted the support for CCE is in there but not necessarily appearing as the top priority.

Dave suggested that Columbia, Orange, Dutchess and Sullivan convene a meeting on the Ag & Farmland Protection plan. MA & TE will follow up.

TE explained we had two successful USDA RBEG grants – fiber processing equipment for Battenkill Fiber and equipment for Argyle Cheese – both in Washington County.

TE noted there was a meeting with Whole Foods buyers at FTC. TE felt it was very successful. We helped Jim transition from tomatoes in buckets to shelf stable bagged in a box bringing in line with industry standard. Need to work on corn husking/de-kernel – would like to move process out of FTC.