

## Conservation Advisory Council | City of Newburgh, New York

The Heritage Center, 123 Grand St., Newburgh, NY 12550

Phone: (845) 569-7366 e-mail: [conservation@cityofnewburgh-ny.gov](mailto:conservation@cityofnewburgh-ny.gov)

### Council Members:

Chuck Thomas, Chair  
Marcel Barrick  
Kippy Boyle  
Deborah Dresser  
Karen Eberle-McCarthy  
Gail Fulton  
Alison Filosa



July 8, 2018

David E. Church, Executive Director

Orange County Water Authority

124 Main Street

Goshen, NY 10924

Re: Newburgh Area Water Supply Protection Initiative

Dear Mr. Church:

It is my pleasure to support the Orange County Water Authority's Hudson River Estuary Grant Program application to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to establish a sustainable coalition to support the protection of the Newburgh Area Water Supply Watershed.

We believe the creation of a coalition to address priority issues identified by municipal leaders, local agencies and stakeholders will be fundamental to the sustainability of the Newburgh Area Watershed. The newly formed coalition will establish a long-term mechanism for inter-municipal coordination on watershed and water supply issues identified in the Source Water Assessment Projection Plan, which is in the final stages of completion by the NYS DEC. The coalitions will likely focus on: activities that impact the entire watershed; the use, prosperity, protection and environmental and economic sustainability of the watershed; serving as a constructive, informed, collaborative advocate for the resilience and the economic and environmental sustainability of the watershed. Coalition membership will be open to provide a balanced representation of those who have an interest in the watershed including individuals, families, organizations, businesses and local governments.

The City of Newburgh Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) is fully supportive of this important project and commits to serving on the coalition and providing project support including volunteer time. Further the Council is interested in and supportive of a public educational program that will help the public understand the importance of our watersheds and the extent of public watersheds through mapping and other innovative outreach efforts. One such concept that comes to mind is replication of the Hudson River Estuary Sturgeon signs that identify estuaries and helps to create a broad understand of the extent of systems. The CAC will work on the conceptualization and implementation of such a project should funds be available for such an undertaking, even at a pilot stage. This could have an important impact on public perceptions and watershed identification and public understanding.

We fully support this project and urge favorable consideration of your grant application from the NYSDEC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chuck Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the name "Chuck Thomas, Chair".

Chuck Thomas, Chair