



MEETING MINUTES
April 28, 2026, 4:30 PM

Oriskany Falls Village Hall
185 North Main Street, Oriskany, NY 13425

Present

Chairperson Chris Burtch (V. of Oriskany)
Roger Potenski (T. of Westmoreland)
Larry Stern (V. of Waterville)
Jamie Bechy (V. of Waterville)
Elizabeth Tantillo (V. of Clinton)
Colin Idzi (V. of Oriskany Falls)

Jack Lite (T. of Sangerfield)
Jake Voelker (NYS DOT)
Stuart Miller (Mohawk Valley Trout Unlimited)
Kristin Campbell (HOCCPP staff)
Hanna Sauberan (HOCCPP staff)
JP Dillon (HOCCPP staff)

Chairperson Burtch opened the meeting at 4:50 pm.

Meeting Minutes

The March 24, 2026 meeting minutes were approved unanimously following a motion by Jamie B. and seconded by Mayor Tantillo.

New Grant Opportunities

Kristin C. discussed three upcoming grant opportunities. The NYS DEC Resilient Watershed Grant (RWG) is due June 26th. The State share is 90% with a 10% local match. The projects must be mentioned within a Resilient NY report, which includes the Oriskany Creek Watershed Sediment and Debris Management Study, the Oriskany Creek Emergency Transportation Plan by MMI, and the Sherman Brook Watershed Flood Mitigation Study. The minimum grant amount is \$150,000, and the maximum amount is \$10 million. Members discussed potential projects in their community.

The second grant opportunity is the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) Green Resiliency and Green Innovation Grants, due June 12th. The minimum grant amount is \$1 million, and the maximum amount is \$10 million. Eligible projects need to have a feasibility study. Projects that aren't eligible for the Resilient Watershed Grant are able to apply for these grants.

There was also a discussion on the FEMA BRIC grant being re-released and accepting applications. The federal share is 75% with a 25% local match. Applications are due May 22, 2026, in the FEMA GO portal. The priority is shovel-ready projects. Scoping is not eligible unless it leads to a project.

Treasurer's Report

The balance in the Commission's bank account was \$43,421.51. The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously, following a motion by Roger P. and seconded by Jame B.

Member Reports

Waterville:

The Village of Waterville will be applying for a Resilient Watershed Grant to decommission the reservoirs and turn them into settling basins. The project will cost approximately \$4 million.

Westmoreland:

The Town of Westmoreland is looking to replace their salt shed project and has hired an engineer for the design. Special consideration has been given due to the wetlands at the highway garage. The Town is looking for a grant to replace the shed when the CFA is announced.

Town officials will also be contacting owners of a cemetery on Main Street. Debris such as flowers, pots and planters are being dumped into Dean's Creek.

Oriskany:

The Village of Oriskany is placing a temporary sign near the dam to inform visitors of the high E. coli count and warn against swimming/fishing in the water.

Oriskany Falls:

The Village will be selling by auction the reservoir on State Route 12B in the Town of Madison.

Other Business

Kristin C. reported that there are two upcoming events being hosted by the County. The Mohawk Valley Stormwater Coalition (MVSC) members are holding a 4-hour Erosion and Sediment Control training course at the Planning Department Conference Room in June. Further details will be shared with members.

There will also be a Land Use Training event on June 9th, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm in Rome. NYS DOT will discuss topics such as permitting, rights-of-way, traffic studies, and billboards. Additionally, the Herkimer-Oneida Counties Transportation Council (HOCTC) will have a session on the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) program, how to access funding and other traffic safety topics.

Stuart M. shared information gathered from water samples collected by students and Trout Unlimited that show the results of testing for levels of E. coli in the Oriskany Creek. There was a discussion about the cyclical increase of the levels since testing began in 2016. It was mentioned that testing for fecal counts cannot detect the difference between humans and fertilizer from animal waste. Trout Unlimited will collect samples in the summer that will also include temperature and macroinvertebrates.

There was a brief discussion on the date of the next meeting as the fourth Tuesday in May would be the day after the Memorial Day holiday. Members decided that the meeting would be moved to May 19th 4:30 pm at the Whitestown Town Offices, after the Sauquoit Creek Basin Intermunicipal Commission meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on May 19, 2026, at the Whitestown Town Hall at 4:30 pm. The meeting adjourned at 5:27 pm.