



**MEETING MINUTES  
October 17, 2024, 4:30 PM**

Waterville Village Offices, 122 Barton Ave., Waterville, NY 13480

**Present**

Jamie Bechy (V. of Waterville) \*  
Larry Stern (V. of Waterville) \*  
Elizabeth Tantillo (V. of Clinton) \*  
Roger Potenski (T. of Westmoreland) \*  
Gene Whipple (T. of Sangerfield) \*

Alyssa Flint (Ramboll)  
Jake Voelker (NYSDOT)  
Paul Hoole (FEMA)  
Liseli Haines (Clinton/Kirkland Climate Smart)  
Jeff Rehler (HOCCPP staff)

\*Authorized or alternate voting representative

Jamie Bechy opened the meeting at 4:36 pm.

**Meeting Minutes**

Approval of meeting minutes from September 19, 2024 was tabled due to lack of quorum.

**FEMA BRIC DTA Program**

P. Hoole, Hazard Mitigation Planner from the Albany Field Office of FEMA, discussed recent DTA activities and explained FEMA's BRIC grant program. BRIC is FEMA's largest grant program, and a local hazard mitigation plan is required to apply for project grants. DTA was created to increase the quantity and quality of BRIC grant applications. FEMA is providing technical expertise including capabilities of program consultants CDM Smith.

The team has been reviewing existing studies and documents about the watershed. They have devised a methodology to prioritize projects identified by OCWC activities and existing studies (such as the recently completed Oriskany Creek Watershed Study: Sediment & Debris Management Plan).

CDM Smith consultants gave a presentation about DTA , BRIC, Cost-Benefit Analysis, and Project Prioritization for OCWC. They fielded questions about identifying local/state cost share partners and meeting cost share requirements of BRIC. The consultants will provide a digital copy of the presentation to Members.

The next step will be creating a short list of projects prioritized by OCWC Members. These projects will undergo further refinement, including a cost-benefit analysis to be conducted by CDM Smith. The current prioritization task will take place via online survey distributed to Members with an email invite to the survey set to be distributed in the coming days. P. Hoole and/or J. Rehler can met with local officials as needed and provide guidance on completing the online prioritization exercise.

**Treasurer's Report**

The balance in the Commission's bank account as of September 30, 2024 was \$29,431.9. This includes the full approved budget amount of \$14,999.99 in Member invoice payments for 2024. Treasurer's Report approval was tabled due to lack of quorum.

## **Member Reports**

Waterville – J. Bechy reported the Village received notice that funding had been cut for an \$880,000 FEMA grant applied for by the Village to decommission a dam at the reservoir. Over 5 years, the Village has spent \$80,000 to obtain professional services related to the project and unsuccessfully appealed the decision to FEMA in advance of the project cancellation notice.

The stacked rock bank stabilization project near Stewart's has been started by NYSDOT. This project will involve pouring an apron to lift the stream bed.

Westmoreland – R. Potenski sought input from OCWC Members on a Town and School issue requiring drainage solutions for the sports fields and surrounding areas. The issue has been mentioned at previous OCWC meetings but is a recurring/expanding issue since diversion pipes have collapsed. Town would like to immediately address the issue to preserve its assets and mitigate impacts to Dean's Creek. J. Rehler suggested the Town inquire about eligibility requirements and award amounts for OC Flood Mitigation funding for the project. J. Bechy supported this recommendation by describing Waterville's experiences applying for OC Flood Mitigation funding.

## **Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held November 21, 2024 at the Westmoreland Town Offices at 4:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 5:44 pm.