



MEETING MINUTES

August 15, 2024, 4:30 PM

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

Present

Jon Scott (Town of Kirkland) *	Bill Girvan (Trout Unlimited MV Chapter, OC Federation Sportsmen's Club)
Jamie Bechy (V. of Waterville) *	Don Hahn (Trout Unlimited MV Chapter, OC Federation Sportsmen's Club)
Larry Stern (V. of Waterville) *	Bruce McMullen (Sangerfield resident)
Elizabeth Tantillo (V. of Clinton) *	William Ellis (Oneida resident)
Roger Potenski (T. of Westmoreland) *	Chris Hughes (Clark Mills resident)
Dave Glenn (T. of Whitestown) *	Konrad Dobler (Whitestown resident)
Chris Burtch (V. of Oriskany) *	Kristin Campbell (HOCCPP staff)
Shaun Gannon (Ramboll)	Jeff Rehler (HOCCPP staff)
Alyssa Flint (Ramboll)	
Randall Young (NYS DEC)	
Liseli Haines (Clinton/Kirkland Climate Smart)	

*Authorized or alternate voting representative

Chairperson Jon Scott opened the meeting at 4:30 pm.

Chairperson Jon Scott addressed the fact that OCWC meetings are public meetings, but that the present meeting was not a public hearing (as incorrectly reported by news media).

Meeting Minutes

The following meeting minutes were approved unanimously:

- May 2024 (Motion: C. Burtch, Second: E. Tantillo)
- June 2024 (Motion: C. Burtch, Second: E. Tantillo)
- July 2024 (Motion: C. Burtch, Second: L. Stern)

Oriskany Creek Watershed Study: Sediment and Debris Management Plan

S. Gannon gave a presentation of findings based on the draft report. The presentation included an overview of OCWC, methodologies used to evaluate creek conditions, results of the analysis, and next steps for how the information can be used to support undertaking projects. Dave Glenn made a motion to finalize the report, J. Bechy seconded, and all Members approved. Ramboll will issue a final version in the coming days.

A robust discussion followed the consultant presentation. A member of the public noted that an additional trestle is located between Clark Mills and Whitestown. Regarding a trestle included in the report, there was a question of property ownership and response that the full report and County Tax Parcel Viewer include the information.

Additional comments pertained to allowable bank stabilization methods. J. Bechy mentioned DEC no longer allows Gabion Walls, with R. Young confirming they are prone to fail in high intensity storms and natural banks are preferred. Telephone poles are no longer used because they introduce creosote into the surrounding environment. S. Gannon noted engineers are also now avoiding the use of Gabion Walls.

A 2013 flood along Westmoreland Rd (near skating rink) was mentioned, along with an issue of debris left by the power company during a tree trimming project. The debris exacerbated the flood impacts as it collected at obstructions downstream.

A Trout Unlimited Member spoke about tree planting efforts near Big Creek. Properties affected by dam removal near the Waterville Reservoir in Sangerfield were also discussed along with concerns in the vicinity of Osborne Ave/White St. Invasive species were mentioned as a concern with removal of infrastructure such as dams.

J. Rehler highlighted the availability of OCWC documents (reports, minutes, agendas) on the OCWC page of the Oneida County website and encouraged the public to attend future meetings to stay informed of OCWC activities. Members encouraged the public to speak directly to municipal representatives about local concerns.

Oneida County Flood Mitigation Grant

K. Campbell gave a brief overview of the Oneida County Flood Mitigation Grant program. Municipalities or OCWC may apply to the County for grant funds to help with projects they have identified including construction or additional studies. Applications are evaluated on a rolling basis and must be approved by the County Board of Legislators. J. Scott and J. Bechy noted the program application is simple and K. Campbell mentioned it is a good fit for low dollar value projects. Additional information (including match requirements and funding maximums) is included in Member packets along with the application form.

2024 Budget

J. Rehler discussed the funding formula (unchanged from previous years) and some possible budget scenarios for 2024. He stressed that the budget is directly related to OCWC's ability to fund recently discussed projects. Members discussed timing of the budget and K. Campbell explained it is designed to approximately align to the timing of Town budgets. Members discussed budget options and D. Glenn proposed keeping funding at the same level as previous years for at least the current year and then considering changes based on grant opportunities available in the coming year. Members unanimously approved a \$15,000 budget for 2024 following a motion by D. Glenn and second by J. Bechy. Member municipality invoices will be issued shortly.

Treasurer's Report

The balance in the Commission's bank account as of July 31, 2024 was \$64,431.96. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved following a motion by J. Bechy and second by E. Tantillo.

OCWC unanimously approved payment on a \$42,000 Ramboll consultant invoice for the Oriskany Creek Watershed Study. The motion was made by J. Bechy and seconded by R. Potenski.

Member Reports

Waterville – J. Bechy mentioned that local infrastructure has held up well during recent storm events and that they are awaiting NYSDOT to finalize stream work in the Village.

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held September 19, 2024 at the Westmoreland Town Offices at 4:30 pm. The meeting adjourned at 5:44 pm.