



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 16th, 2024, 4:30 PM**  
Westmoreland Town Offices, 100 Station Rd., Westmoreland

**Present**

Chairperson Jon Scott (T. of Kirkland) \*  
Robert Rockwell (V. of Clinton) \*  
Roger Potenski (T. of Westmoreland) \*  
Chris Burtch (V. of Oriskany) \*  
Larry Stern (V. of Waterville) \*  
Alyssa Flint (Ramboll)

Jake Voelker (NYSDOT)  
Paul Hoole (FEMA)  
Liseli Haines (Clinton-Kirkland Climate Smart)  
Kristin Campbell (HOCCPP Staff)  
Jeff Rehler (HOCCPP Staff)  
Madalyn DeCarr (HOCCPP Staff)

\*Authorized or alternate voting representative

J. Scott opened the meeting at 4:32 pm.

**Meeting Minutes**

C. Burtch motioned to approve meeting minutes from the March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, and April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meetings. R. Rockwell seconded the motions and minutes for both dates were approved with all in favor.

**Brief Recap of Member Goals**

J. Rehler reiterated from the April meeting that Members stated they would like to collaborate to proactively identify, prioritize, and work to solve issues within the watershed. The group would also like to look into possible grant opportunities to secure further funding and would like training on topics relevant to the Commission such as how to apply for grants. There was agreement that the commission could gain traction by taking on a project.

**Discussion of Project Possibilities**

Members discussed taking on a low-cost project located in the headwaters to use as an example. A potential project for the Commission would be repairing a filled-in culvert on Osborne Ave. in Sangerfield. G. Whipple (Town of Sangerfield) and J. Bechy (Village of Waterville) had previously discussed the project idea at last month's meeting. C. Burtch mentioned permitting may take at least 3 months.

There was discussion about the Watershed Study report timing and whether the Commission should act before seeing the data, if any pieces of the study can be provided early, or whether the report would be ready in time for the CFA. K. Campbell noted the CFA has been released and larger projects may be a good fit, but smaller efforts might be more appropriate for County Flood Mitigation funding.

Additional discussion focused on a proposed drainage ditch solution for a school project in Westmoreland that could impact wells, Dean's Creek, and an old retention pond. Access and acquisition possibilities regarding a vacant property in Waterville with erosion issues was also a topic of discussion. Access to private property was mentioned as a barrier to fixing problem areas.

**FEMA BRIC DTA Program**

P. Hoole, Hazard Mitigation Planner from the Albany Field Office of FEMA, discussed last month's meeting reiterating that projects should be realistic and that it is important to look at the watershed as a whole. When selecting projects, it is important to look at who the project is helping not just what is in the environment. As for potential grant training, it might be a good idea to reach out to past grant recipients to ask about their application experience. An effort to bring various grant opportunities together in one place was mentioned, as was WQIP as a

potential funding source for sediment prevention projects. A presentation on BRIC applications is slated for Fall and possibilities exist to bring in guest speakers at other times. L. Stern asked about matching BRIC funds and P. Hoole noted that the local match is 25%. A lender has helped with this in the past, with FEMA paying the interest.

### **Oriskany Creek Watershed Study: Sediment and Debris Management Plan**

This item was discussed as part of Project Possibilities. K. Cambell asked how the model by Ramboll is progressing, A. Flint reported that they are still working on it but are running into issues as the model keeps crashing. Despite that, they are hopeful to have a draft of the study ready by the July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. As the CFA has a compressed timeline, OCWC may host a special meeting (TBD) to communicate opportunities.

A field assessment with Hamilton college students is to begin in July in Big Creek. R. Potenski suggested Dean's Creek as another possible study site. K. Campbell stated that obtaining separate funding may be possible for a study on Deans Creek, with more information to follow on Stream Corridor funding in the CFA.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The balance in the Commission's bank account is \$64,431.96. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved following a motion by C. Burtch and a second by R. Rockwell.

### **Member Reports**

Oriskany: C. Burtch stated the Village is working on a project to repurpose the site of an old mill. There is interest in filling in a sluice as opening the sluice would send mud and sediment downstream. The Village is also identifying banks prone to erosion.

Westmoreland: R. Potenski reiterated the project by the school is a key concern. The Little League field continues to be a point of interest due to consistent flooding. K. Campbell asked if it was possible to move the field, but this could be challenging to find available land and the current location is central in the Town. Bank undercutting at the confluence of Dean's Creek and Oriskany Creek was mentioned, as was an R/V sales and service project in the Town which could have stormwater management implications for Dean's Creek.

### **Other Business**

K. Campbell discussed MS4 communities and efforts to get the Mohawk Valley Stormwater Coalition up and running. Municipalities will need to sign an IMA to join, and the first meeting is expected in June following the Sauquoit Creek meeting. There is money in the CFA for MS4 data collection and an LOS is needed to apply.

J. Rehler discussed County transportation planning initiatives including Safe Streets for All. The initiative is aimed at decreasing the number transportation-related fatal crashes and injuries. There is currently a public outreach survey and transportation open house on May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3-7pm at MVCC in Utica.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting date is June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Waterville Village offices at 4:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.