



MEETING MINUTES
October 28, 2025, 4:30 PM

Westmoreland Town Offices
100 Station Rd., Westmoreland, NY 13490

Present

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

Dave Glenn (T. of Whitestown)
Jake Voelker (NYS DOT)
Kristin Campbell (HOCCPP staff)
Hanna Sauberan (HOCCPP staff)
Stu Miller (Mohawk Valley Trout Unlimited)

Chairperson Burtch opened the meeting at 4:33 pm.

Meeting Minutes

The September 23, 2025 meeting minutes were approved unanimously following a motion by Dave G. and seconded by Jamie B.

Project List Update and Review

Based on the conversations over the previous months, Kristin C. has updated the project list to highlight priority projects, which will be considered when reviewing and applying for grants. At the Last meeting Mayor Tantillo indicated that the bank and channel stabilization project adjacent to Kiwanis Fields in the Village of Clinton as a priority project.

Chairperson Burtch and Dave G. mentioned the Valley Road Bank Restoration project in Whitestown. Kristin C. mentioned that funding was applied for this year through the NYS DEC Resilient Watersheds Grant (RWG) program.

Jamie B. said decommissioning of the White Street Dam is a priority project that needs to be done. Waterville has also started to work on bank stabilization of Big Creek. Around 2 miles still has to be completed.

Stu M. from Trout Unlimited asked about projects along Norton Avenue and other high-risk areas. Kristin C. mentioned the Oriskany Creek Sediment and Debris Management Plan identifies high risk areas and associated projects identified by the engineer (Ramboll). The plan is located on the OCWC's webpage and used as a resource for identifying projects for future grants. Municipalities need to review project sponsors, easements and funding.

Treasurer's Report

The balance in the Commission's bank account was \$29,431.95. The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously, following a motion by Chuck H. and seconded by Elizabeth T.

Invoices for member contributions were sent after the September meeting. Let Kristin know if you have not received a copy of your invoice. To date, five municipalities have submitted payment. The checks will be deposited before the next meeting.

Member Reports

Westmoreland:

The cleanup under Dean's Creek Bridge under NYS Rte. 233 has been completed and the Westmoreland School District's retention pond has been reestablished. Next step is to address the culverts that flow into Dean's Creek in the spring.

Chuck H. also mentioned that due to the lack of rain, the two wells that are used in the community currently have only 2-3 feet of water in them when typically around 16 feet. They investigated drilling a new well a couple of years ago, but it was estimated at a cost of around \$1 million.

Oriskany:

After the September meeting comments by Trout Unlimited about fecal contamination of water sampled at the Village, the Village has discussed the next steps to identifying the source of the contamination. Letters will be sent out to various departments, including the Oneida County Health Department, to see if the water can be tested due to the high fecal count. The Village wants to know what the source is (from new construction, property owners, etc.) and if other agencies had been notified of the water sample results. Stuart M will look for more information, but he stated that there was no outside reporting done by the Riverkeepers about the sampling completed. There was discussion by members that the high count could be due to the lack of rain, thus the water is less diluted. Chris B. will be sent contact information for Britt Westergard (DEC) to discuss the issue.

Kristin C. mentioned if the source is from septic systems, there is a septic system replacement program. Elizabeth T. asked to be sent more information about the program as she hears about people asking for help with their systems. Kristin will send more information.

Other Business

Members discussed the next meeting date and agreed to meet in January unless an emergency meeting must be called. Colin I. said that the Oriskany Falls Village Offices are available as another meeting location.

Stu M. reported Trout Unlimited has collected water samples with SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF), including 6 or 7 samples from Oriskany Creek. Additionally, macroinvertebrate testing will be conducted in Oriskany next year, with volunteers needed to help complete the sampling.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on January 27, 2026, at the Oriskany Falls Village Offices at 4:30 pm. The meeting adjourned at 5:09 pm, following a motion by Elizabeth T. and seconded by Chuck H.