



MEETING MINUTES October 19, 2023, 4:30 PM

Westmoreland Town Offices, 100 Station Road, Westmoreland

Present

Chairperson Jon Scott (T. of Kirkland) *
Jamie Bechy (V. of Waterville) *
Chuck Hebbard (T. of Westmoreland) *
Robert Rockwell (V. of Clinton) *
Chris Burtch (V. of Oriskany) *
Larry Stern (V. of Waterville) *
Roger Potenski (T. of Westmoreland)
Alyssa Flint (Ramboll)
Shaun Gannon (Ramboll)

Jake Voelker (NYSDOT)
Paul Hoole (FEMA Region 2)
Nicole Bourgeois (Oneida County DPW)
Paul Kulpa (Westmoreland School District)
Johnathan Woodward (Citizen - Clinton)
Liseli Haines (Citizen - Kirkland)
Ken Ellis (Citizen - Kirkland)
Kristin Campbell (HOCCPP Staff)
Jeff Rehler (HOCCPP Staff)

*Authorized or alternate voting representative

The meeting was opened at 4:42 pm by Jon Scott. Chris Burtch made a motion to approve the September 26, 2023 special meeting minutes. Jamie Bechy seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Updates on sign-in sheet and authorized voting reps

Jeff R. reminded attendees about various initiatives to identify authorized voting representatives of OCWC member municipalities at meetings. The sign-in sheet now has places to designate status as municipal representative and/or authorized voting member, note official title/affiliation, and indicate place of residence. Voting representatives are now being asked to sit at the front table(s) in OCWC meetings and use name placards.

FEMA BRIC program

Paul H., Hazard Mitigation Planner from the Albany Field Office of FEMA discussed the FEMA BRIC DTA award to OCWC. Launched in Sept 2023, this 36-month direct technical assistance program is intended to help bridge the gap between project ideas and implementation. Paul stressed the program's flexibility and capabilities to facilitate access to FEMA resources including consulting services. Paul H. also discuss the BRIC program (75%/25% match) and how FEMA is scaling it up, but there is a short window to apply this year; he advises preparing to apply for next year. Jeff R. mentioned that Paul H. has previously expressed interest in meeting with officials from OCWC member municipalities and encouraged direct outreach to his email.

Sherman Brook Study

Alyssa F. mentioned that Ramboll conducted the final public engagement meeting on October 18 at the Town of Kirkland Offices. Next steps include focusing on addressing sediment/debris issues in priority areas such as New St., Beatty Ave., and Kirkland Ave. Shaun G. noted that Ramboll will put together descriptions of options for using remaining funds tied to this project.

Oneida County Flood Mitigation Grant: Oriskany Creek Watershed Study

The Oneida County Flood Mitigation Grant program remains open, and municipalities may apply to the County for grant funds to help with projects they have identified. Kristin C. discussed how there is approximately \$2M in budget currently allocated to the program, noting that school districts may apply. Applications are evaluated on a rolling basis and must be approved by the County Board of Legislators.

Oriskany Creek Watershed Study

Shaun G. discussed how Ramboll had received the Notice to Proceed from OCWC. They are reviewing high level recommendations from existing studies and developing a questionnaire to be distributed to key officials to identify existing problems. The Study will involve building a simulation about how water flows in the watershed and data collection will involve field visits to the Creek. There will be an upcoming meeting to inventory problems and ideate solutions for each stream segment. The study will not include a cost/benefit analysis, but that will likely be a separate piece needed for a BRIC application.

Treasurer's Report

The balance in the Commission's bank account is \$114,748.96. Dave G. and Chris B. will be adding themselves as authorized signatories on the bank account.

Member Reports

Kirkland – Jon S. discussed a potential project near the cemetery and noted he would be providing some information on St. Mary's Brook to Ramboll.

Waterville – Jamie B. discussed difficulties obtain DEC permits for stabilizing stream banks with rocks. Shaun G. noted that non-green or nature-based solutions are not currently well-received by DEC.

The Village is interested in addressing debris in Big Creek but noted difficulties with access due to issues being on private property. They have an inventory of hand drawn sketches of the Creek from Stewart's to Deansboro. Jake V. discussed NYSDOT work to construct a retaining wall near Stewart's and Jamie B. noted that there were at least two additional places where the State Route would be susceptible to washouts.

Other Business

IMAs for MS4 communities are with the County Attorney and will soon be ready to go to the Board of Legislators. The Mohawk Valley Stormwater Coalition will likely be created by year's end. This will likely include most communities in the Sauquoit Creek Watershed and early priorities will be municipal sign-ups, education, and training.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date is November 16, 2023, at the Kirkland Town Offices at 4:30 pm.
The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.