



**MEETING MINUTES
January 27, 2026, 4:30 PM**

Oriskany Falls Village Hall
185 North Main Street, Oriskany Falls, NY 13425

Present

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

Amber Bell (V. of Oriskany Falls Clerk/Treasurer)
Jake Voelker (NYS DOT)
Alyssa Flint (Ramboll)
Kristin Campbell (HOCCPP staff)
Hanna Sauberan (HOCCPP staff)
Stu Miller (Mohawk Valley Trout Unlimited)

Chairperson Burtch opened the meeting at 4:34 pm.

Meeting Minutes

The October 28, 2025 meeting minutes were approved unanimously following a motion by Elizabeth T. and seconded by Jamie B.

Project List Update and Review

Kristin C. asked if there were any updates or new ideas that should be added to the project list. None were discussed; however, Jake V. mentioned that NYSDOT will replace the bridge over Oriskany Creek and a culvert under State Route 12B in the Town of Kirkland.

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 Elizabeth T. and seconded by Roger P.

The balance does not include the paid dues from last year. To date, seven municipalities have submitted payment. The balance will be updated before the next meeting. With the addition of the Village of Oriskany Falls a member of the Commission, member contributions will be adjusted when invoices are sent out in the fall.

Member Reports

Clinton:

Although the Village completed the repair of the culverts on Chenango Ave South, in front of the Milkhouse Apartments, there is still flooding in the apartments' parking lot due to two culverts that were constructed illegally above the driveway. The project falls outside of the easement from the previous culvert repair, but the Village is looking into other ways to resolve the issue. The culverts are filled with debris and cause flooding behind Lewis Apartments and Kinney Drugs property during the January 2026 melt.

The Village also received \$400,000 through the Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) to purchase a vacuum truck that will reduce sediment and pollution and be shared with Mohawk Valley Stormwater Coalition members.

Waterville:

The recently completed Big Creek restoration project functioned well during the January rain and snow melt event. The Town received almost \$1.4 million from the Resilient Watersheds Grant Program to continue the bank stabilization and floodplain restoration project along NYS Route 315 to the wastewater treatment plant.

The Village would like to find funds to take care of the reservoirs. According to the FEMA, there are funds left but DHSES has conflicting information.

Oriskany Falls:

The Village is examining alternative uses for an old reservoir. The Village now gets water from groundwater charged wells. The municipal water tank was recently inspected and needs \$75,000 worth of upgrades. The Village is looking for grants that can cover the cost. Jamie B. mentioned DASNY grants, which were used to help cover upgrades for Waterville's tank.

Westmoreland:

The Westmoreland School District's retention pond has been reestablished. Next step is for the Town to address the culverts that flow into Dean's Creek in the spring.

Oriskany:

For the fourth year in a row, the Village has applied for the Community Development Block Grant program. The Village is also looking to perform sewer upgrades with money that was set aside.

The Village is looking into the E.coli contamination of water that was sampled by the River Keepers and has reached out to other parties to discuss the source of the E.coli. Chris B. has not heard of any updates on the matter currently.

Other Business

Stu M. reported Trout Unlimited will be testing for E. coli along the stream with a goal of 8 samples two or three times a year. Chris B. mentioned the Village of Oriskany wants to do more testing regarding the water contamination. They are discussing multiple tests when it is wet and dry, sampling uphill and downhill, and also performing an intensive water study.

Stu M. also said they are looking for projects that incorporate tree planting in the spring along the stream on any municipal-owned land. They are looking to plant 100 or so saplings at each site.

Kristin distributed information about the Open Space Conservation Grant from DEC. Applications are due on April 15, 2026, and the grant focuses on projects that involve the purchase of land to perform actions such as protecting the quality of drinking water and/or providing flood control, habitat connectivity, or public open space. Elizabeth T. mentioned the purchase of the Kiwanis Field for flood control as a potential project that may relate to this grant opportunity.

Members discussed upcoming meeting dates and agreed to meet on February 24th at the Westmoreland Town Offices, March 24th at the Waterville Village Offices, and April 28th at the Oriskany Falls Village Hall.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on February 24, 2026, at the Westmoreland Town Offices at 4:30 pm. The meeting adjourned at 5:24 pm, following a motion by Roger P. and seconded by Elizabeth T.