



MEETING MINUTES

November 16, 2023, 4:30 PM

Kirkland Town Offices, 3699 NY-12B, Kirkland

Present

Chairperson Jon Scott (T. of Kirkland) *
Gene Whipple (T. of Sangerfield) *
Robert Rockwell (V. of Clinton) *
Larry Stern (V. of Waterville) *
Roger Potenski (T. of Westmoreland)
Shaun Gannon (Ramboll)

Jessica Armstrong (Soil & Water)
Payton Reese (Soil & Water)
Brian Rand (Citizen - Kirkland)
Kristin Campbell (HOCCPP Staff)
Jeff Rehler (HOCCPP Staff)

*Authorized or alternate voting representative

Chairperson Jon Scott opened the meeting at 4:31 pm. Approval of October 19, 2023 meeting minutes was tabled due to lack of quorum.

FEMA BRIC program

Launched in Sept 2023, this 36-month direct technical assistance program is intended to help bridge the gap between project ideas and implementation. Jeff R. and Kristin C. provided an overview of activities to date. HOCCPP staff has been in regular consultation with Paul Hoole, Hazard Mitigation Planner from the Albany Field Office of FEMA and program consultants from CDM Smith. The team has been reviewing existing studies and documents such as the Sauquoit Creek Sediment and Debris Management Plan and Scope of Work for the Oriskany Creek Sediment and Debris Management Plan. The team is being careful not to duplicate services already being provided by Ramboll. Paul Hoole has previously expressed interest in meeting with officials from OCWC member municipalities and encouraged direct outreach to his email.

Sherman Brook Study

Shaun G. noted that Ramboll will put together descriptions of options for using remaining funds tied to this project and present to the Town of Kirkland. An interim draft of the report will be provided to HOCCPP for review.

Oriskany Creek Watershed Study

Shaun G. discussed Ramboll's activities to date including data collection efforts and field visits in the watershed. A stakeholder engagement meeting specific to the study will directly follow the OCWC meeting at 6:00 PM. The purpose of the meeting is to inventory problems and ideate solutions for each stream segment. Ramboll has designed a questionnaire to collect feedback from key stakeholders and will also have maps to document existing conditions. There will be direct follow ups with municipal officials to ensure robust feedback on the questionnaire.

Kristin C. commented on difficulties identifying concerns in the watershed and proposed conducting public outreach using FEMA BRIC DTA consulting services. The idea to get direct input from residents was well-received by Members. Shaun G. indicated that Ramboll would be willing to participate in the efforts. HOCCPP staff will discuss with FEMA.

2024 Meeting Schedule and Locations

OCWC discussed meeting experiences with facilities, attendance, and quorum over the past year. Based on the discussion, a 2024 schedule will be drafted with the number of venues reduced to two alternating locations: Westmoreland Town Offices and Waterville Village Offices.

Treasurer's Report

The balance in the Commission's bank account is \$114,748.96. The Commission discussed the need for additional authorized signatories (Dave G. and Chris B.) on the bank account to reimburse Chairperson Scott for initial expenses related to establishing the Commission.

Member Reports

Waterville – Gene W. mentioned a newspaper article on the sinkhole in Waterville, marking the fourth anniversary of its creation during a Halloween storm event in 2019. Larry S. shared takeaways from reading the article and added insights from his familiarity with local concerns. Responsibilities of the property owner(s), enforcement of local regulations, and recent legal proceedings were topics of the discussion.

Erosion issues and projects along Route 315 near the sewage treatment plant and near Stewart's were mentioned, as was the need to coordinate with NYSDOT and DEC. Soil & Water indicated they would explore DEC-acceptable approaches to streambank stabilization. Kristin C. informed the group that she had reached out to DEC in hopes to get clarification and guidance.

Additional discussion centered around the temporary closure of Beaver Creek bridge for maintenance.

Other Business

Concerns were stated regarding flooding in the vicinity of College St. (Clinton) and a "damming" effect created by historically undersized infrastructure.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date is December 21, 2023, at the Waterville Village Offices at 4:30 pm.
The meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.