



## MEETING MINUTES

January 18, 2024, 4:30 PM

Westmoreland Town Offices, 100 Station Rd., Westmoreland

### Present

Chairperson Jon Scott (T. of Kirkland) \*  
Robert Rockwell (V. of Clinton) \*  
Chris Burtch (V. of Oriskany) \*  
Gene Whipple (T. of Sangerfield) \*  
Larry Stern (V. of Waterville) \*  
Anthony (Jamie) Bechy (V. of Waterville) \*  
Chuck Hebbard (T. of Westmoreland) \*  
Roger Potenski (T. of Westmoreland) \*

Shaun Gannon (Ramboll)  
Jake Voelker (NYSDOT)  
John Salka (Congressman Williams, District 22)  
James Genovese (Oneida County Planning)  
Liseli Haines (Clinton-Kirkland Climate Smart)  
Thomas Mott (Sangerfield Resident)  
Kristin Campbell (HOCCPP Staff)  
Jeff Rehler (HOCCPP Staff)

\*Authorized or alternate voting representative

Chairperson Jon Scott opened the meeting at 4:35 pm.

### Meeting Minutes

Chris Burtch made motions to approve the meeting minutes from October 19, 2023 and November 16, 2023. Robert Rockwell seconded the motions, and they both passed with all in favor.

### 2024 Meeting Schedule

Jeff R. gave a brief overview of the meeting schedule for 2024. It is posted to the OCWC website and meetings will alternate between Westmoreland and Waterville.

### FEMA BRIC DTA Program

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 about the watershed. Paul Hoole has expressed interest in meeting with officials from OCWC member municipalities and encouraged direct outreach to his email. The team would like to collect documentation (photos, locations, etc.) of the recent 12/18 rainfall and flood event as well as future events. The information will be used to inventory impacts for the purposes of future grant applications. Please send documentation and any questions about this effort to Jeff R.

### Oriskany Creek Watershed Study

Shaun G. discussed Ramboll's activities to date including work to create a base model and run calculations for the watershed. Ramboll is continuing outreach activities, distributing a questionnaire, and following up with municipal officials to get feedback about issues in the watershed.

### Treasurer's Report

The balance in the Commission's bank account is \$114,748.96.

Jon Scott motioned to approve a \$7,611.00 payment of the October 2023 Ramboll consultant invoice for the Oriskany Creek Watershed Study Sediment and Debris Management Plan. Chris Burtch seconded, and the motion passed with all in favor.

Dave G. and Chris B. have been added as authorized signatories. Per approval by OCWC Members in April 2023, they will sign to reimburse Chairperson Jon Scott \$317.00 for initial expenses related to establishing the account and EIN.

### **Member Reports**

Sangerfield – Gene W. discussed impacts of the 12/18 flooding on Big Creek, noting water on White St. There was also discussion about downed willow trees plugging up a stream and efforts by residents to dig ditches which have now filled up with water. McCabe Rd. and Osborne Ave. saw impacts with culverts near capacity. Flooding also affected farmland and a snowmobile bridge. Jamie B. noted that landowners bear responsibility to clear debris on their property and may remove debris provided they do not otherwise disturb the flow of water or stream channel. John Salka noted that local Boards may pass ordinances to fine property owners for safety hazards.

Waterville – Jamie B. discussed challenges with culverts related to ownership and the interconnected nature of the water system being a barrier to piecemeal upgrades. He noted Sangerfield owns the culverts in Waterville. Sean G. mentioned work on the Watershed Study is intended to identify opportunities to make impacts with individual projects and fund via grants such as Oneida County Flood Mitigation.

Clinton – Robert R. mentioned similar issues with culverts overflowing on private property and noted there was some flooding on Williams St. near Fountain/Kellogg Sts. on 12/18.

Kirkland – Jon S. discussed how the basins on St. Mary's Ave. barely crested on 12/18 and there were typical impacts along Route 5 and Norton Ave.

Oriskany – Chris B. mentioned water went over the top of the dam and flooded baseball fields on 12/18. He said there has been success in managing debris recently.

Westmoreland – Chuck H. discussed how Dean's Creek washouts along Rt. 233 affect the baseball fields. He also noted ponding water at the school and a full culvert on E. Carter Rd, along with issues near the confluence of Dean's Creek and Oriskany Creek (bank cutbacks, property loss toward Westmoreland Rd.).

### **Other Business**

John Salka shared that there will be a new round of Community Project funding and encourages municipalities in Oneida County to apply. Projects must specify an anticipated completion date. He also mentioned significant funding specifically for the Mohawk River Watershed that has been approved to go to appropriations.

There was discussion about how to ensure projects do not impact other areas of the watershed or neighboring municipalities. James G. noted this is a focus of the NYS GML 239 referral process to County Planning.

There was a question about whether public money can be used to fund improvements to private property for a public benefit.

Kristin C. advised communities to communicate potential water projects with NYS DEC in advance.

Kristin C. discussed an upcoming webinar on MS4s and the creation of the Mohawk Valley Stormwater Coalition.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting date is February 15, 2024, at the Waterville Village Offices at 4:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 pm.