



MEETING MINUTES

September 21, 2023, 4:30 PM

Waterville Village Offices, 122 Barton Ave., Waterville

Present

Jamie Bechy (V. of Waterville)*

Ruben Ostrander (V. of Waterville)*

Larry Stern (V. of Waterville)

Gene Whipple (T. of Sangerfield)*

Chris Burtch (V. of Oriskany)*

Roger Potenski (T. of Westmoreland)

Alyssa Flint (Ramboll)

Jake Voelker (NYSDOT)

Paul Hoole (FEMA Region 2)

John Salka (Congressman Williams)

Bob Jarrett (Citizen - Clinton)

Kristin Campbell (HOCCPP Staff)

Jeff Rehler (HOCCPP Staff)

*Authorized or alternate voting representative

The meeting was opened at 4:40 pm by Jamie Bechy. The August 17, 2023, meeting minutes were tabled due to a lack of a quorum.

Updates on sign-in sheet and authorized voting reps

Jeff R. and Kristin C. discussed various initiatives to provide clarity as to which attendees are authorized voting representatives of OCWC member municipalities. They discussed an updated sign in-sheet with places to designate status as municipal representative and/or authorized voting member, note official title/affiliation, and indicate place of residence. They also invited voting representatives to sit at the front table(s) in OCWC meetings and introduced name placards to help attendees identify one another.

Sherman Brook Study

Alyssa F. mentioned that Ramboll has set a final public engagement meeting date of October 18 from 6:00-7:30pm at the Town of Kirkland Offices. The public will be asked to help evaluate proposed alternatives for projects along the brook based on feasibility, costs, and benefits.

Oneida County Flood Mitigation Grant: Oriskany Creek Watershed Study

Oriskany Creek has received \$100,000 in flood mitigation grant funds. A quorum is required for OCWC to vote on and provide a notice to proceed for Ramboll to commence work on the Oriskany Creek Watershed Study. The study will identify project priorities, estimate costs, and determine feasibility for projects related to sediment and debris management at the watershed scale. To expedite the project kickoff, OCWC decided to call a special meeting for the week of 9/25-9/29, 2023 to vote on the notice to proceed.

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.

FEMA BRIC program

Paul Hoole, Hazard Mitigation Planner from the Albany Field Office of FEMA introduced himself and discussed the FEMA BRIC DTA award to OCWC. Launching in Sept 2023, this 36-month direct technical assistance program is intended to help bridge the gap between project ideas and

implementation. Paul expressed interest in meeting with officials from OCWC member municipalities and encouraged direct outreach to his email to set up meetings. Paul stressed the program's flexibility and capabilities to facilitate access to FEMA resources including consulting services.

Treasurer's Report

The balance in the Commission's bank account is \$14,748.96. Approval of the treasurer's report was tabled due to a lack of quorum.

Member Reports

Waterville – Jamie B. discussed the Village's progress in addressing log structures near the wastewater treatment plant that had been compromised in a previous flooding event.

The Village has been adjusting their scope of work for a dam repair project to meet FEMA requests. They need are trying to ensure their request achieves returning the dam to pre-disaster conditions, but also meets current codes requirements. The FEMA process has been slow, and the project is currently still under review. P. Hoole offered to follow up.

The Village partnered with Oneida County Soil & Water to apply for a watershed grant to address flooding along Big Creek.

The Village is waiting on permits for a project along NYS Route 12 that was funded by the Oneida County Flood Mitigation Grant Program. The project involves tying together NYSDOT work to repair NYS Route 12 damage from a washout at a culvert near Stewart's with downstream work by the Village of Waterville in partnership with Trout Unlimited and US Fish and Wildlife.

Oriskany

Chris B. discussed a ballfield project that was recently completed and the Village's efforts to obtain grant funding for other projects to tie into it. Project ideas include river basin benches, a "seawall" type solution to address erosion, walking paths, ADA-accessible fishing pier, trails, and rebuilding a municipal building to increase resiliency, activate the area, and introduce new community assets from the dam to the ballpark.

The Village's FEMA and DHSES Halloween Storm recovery projects are expected to be completed by year end.

Other Business

Training events providing an intro to the National Flood Insurance Program will be hosted by HOCCPP and delivered by NYSDEC this Fall. An event for Planning and Zoning Board Members will occur 10/25 at MVCC Utica and an event for Codes Enforcement Officers will take place 11/8 at BOCES in Oneida.

Jake V. discussed a NYSDOT bank stabilization project for Sherman Brook along NYS Route 12B.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date is October 19, 2023, at the Westmoreland Town Offices at 4:30 pm. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.