



MEETING MINUTES
March 21, 2024, 4:30 PM

Westmoreland Town Offices, 100 Station Rd., Westmoreland

Chairperson Jon Scott opened the meeting at 4:34 pm.

Present

Chairperson Jon Scott (T. of Kirkland) *
Elizabeth Tantillo (V. of Clinton) *
Chris Burtch (V. of Oriskany) *
Gene Whipple (T. of Sangerfield) *
Ruben Ostrander (V. of Waterville) *
Chuck Hebbard (T. of Westmoreland) *
Roger Potenski (T. of Westmoreland) *
Dave Glenn (T. of Whitestown) *
Shaun Gannon (Ramboll)

Jake Voelker (NYSDOT)
Randall Young (NYSDEC)
Nicole Bourgeois (Oneida County DPW)
Paul Hoole (FEMA)
Liseli Haines (Clinton-Kirkland Climate Smart)
Kristin Campbell (HOCCPP Staff)
Jeff Rehler (HOCCPP Staff)
Madalyn DeCarr (HOCCPP Staff)

*Authorized or alternate voting representative

Meeting Minutes

Chris Burtch made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the February 20, 2024 Special Meeting. Dave Glenn seconded the motion, and it passed with all in favor.

Discussion of Commission Member Goals

J. Scott asked Members to answer the following questions on behalf of their municipality:

1. What information (data, expertise, etc.) would you like to come away with from OCWC participation?
2. What would make OCWC meetings as beneficial as possible to your community?

Members will consider these questions, share with officials from their communities, and report back at the next meeting. The answers will help OCWC set goals for future programming and initiatives.

Oriskany Creek Watershed Study: Sediment and Debris Management Plan

S. Gannon discussed Ramboll's activities to date including work to create a base model and run calculations for the Oriskany Creek (main stem). Possibilities of collecting additional data for key tributaries such as Big Creek and Dean's Creek were discussed; Ramboll will share their suggested approach for doing so at the next meeting. Intended outcomes of the study are identifying projects of various scopes and budgets. The goal is to have a draft report in time for the July CFA season so that OCWC Members can review and use it to apply for funding.

FEMA BRIC DTA Program

P. Hoole, Hazard Mitigation Planner from the Albany Field Office of FEMA, discussed recent work on the State Hazard Mitigation Plan and explained FEMA's BRIC grant program. BRIC is FEMA's largest grant program, and a local hazard mitigation plan is required to apply for project grants. DTA was created to increase the quantity and quality of BRIC grant applications. Possible outcomes of OCWC's participation in FEMA's BRIC DTA program relate to ensuring hazards do not interfere with community visions:

1. Increasing value of OCWC meetings and Member participation
2. Identifying mitigation projects in the watershed and matching to relevant funding opportunities
3. Expanding capabilities of Members to address hazards such as flooding

FEMA is providing technical expertise including capabilities of 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.

Army Corps of Engineers Grant - Planning Assistance to State (PAS)

J. Rehler discusses the PAS grant opportunity. The opportunity relates to two types of assistance: (a) comprehensive water resources planning and (b) technical assistance. A Letter of Intent is needed to start the process. It is a rolling application process with no deadline, expected to take about 3 months from LOI to approval. Awards are in the \$25k-\$100k range and there is a 50/50 cost share requirement. The program is generously funded and has historically had unspent funding each year. A 12–24-month timeframe is required to complete projects related to stormwater planning, modeling, green infrastructure, watershed plans, sediment management plans, and more. J. Voelker mentioned Dolgeville may have been granted this award recently.

Treasurer's Report

The balance in the Commission's bank account is \$106,820.96. Chris Burtch motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report. Elizabeth Tantillo seconded, and the motion passed with all in favor.

Elizabeth Tantillo motioned to approve a \$32,789.00 payment of the 3/15/24 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.

Member Reports

Westmoreland – R. Potenski discussed a walk of Dean's Creek near the Oriskany Creek confluence that he hosted with Ramboll consultants. They explored streambank erosion and flood impacts in the vicinity of Westmoreland Rd. to inform the Oriskany Creek Watershed Study: Sediment and Debris Management Plan.

Other Business

K. Campbell advised Members of an upcoming Community Resilience Data Workshop being conducted on 3/27/24 from 3:00-4:30 pm at the Oneida County Dept. of Planning, Utica Union Station, Floor 3.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date is April 18, 2024, at the Waterville Village Offices at 4:30 pm.
The meeting adjourned at 5:07 pm.