

OLD SAYBROOK COASTAL RESILIENCE COALITION, INC.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Location: Mindy K's Restaurant, Old Saybrook, CT

Date: June 4, 2024, 7:00 pm

Attendees: Gary Albanese, Rick Bovino, Joanne Breen, Marie Cerino, Beth Chotkowski, Jay Costello, Jamie Greacen, Tara Gustafson, Donna Henry, Terence McGrath, Dave Pettinicchi, Ed Rajotte, and Joe Russo

Excused: Jean Boggs, Michael Cohen, Dave Hopkins, Connie Hughes, John Kennedy, Scott Loveland, Carolyn Lyle, Lew Perry, Sally Pritchard, Robert Pulito, and Patricia Walden

Guest: Doug McCracken

AGENDA ITEMS

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

The previous Old Saybrook Coast Resilience Coalition (OSCRC), Inc. May 7th meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes; motion seconded and carried.

Secretary's Report:

No report.

Treasurer's Report:

The 2024 bank deposits and expenses during past month are as follows:

Deposits: None

In-Kind Donations: None

Expenses: None

The current OSCRC balance as of June 4, 2024 is \$3,369.50.

Vice Chair's Report:

No report.

Chair's Report:

Chairman asked that each member review his/her alternate members and assure that they are current, accurate and able to attend meetings as needed.

Old Business:

1. Update on the Clinton-Fenwick-Old Saybrook-Westbrook (4 Shore Resilience) grant. Doug mentioned that a final report draft for the current grant is underway. To date, the Chalker Beach tide gate, Saybrook Point wall, Indiantown flooding, Elm Street underpass, and Saybrook Manor sea wall were identified as projects.

Old Saybrook submitted a proposal in May to the 2024 Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) on behalf of Old Saybrook & Westbrook for the area from Chapman Beach to Indiantown. Old Saybrook & Westbrook have come up with the 50% match to their budget request, with Old Saybrook taking the lead. Westbrook had taken the lead on the current 4Shore Resilience grant.

2. Chalker Beach representatives reported that Whole Foods is still waiting on state and local permits to begin work. The Town of Old Saybrook is responsible for the marsh, not Chalker Beach. Gary noted that the new Old Saybrook Public Works director is very easy to work with. He will supply the director's contact information to the OSCRC Board members.

Gary mentioned continued discussions with Town officials and the Public Works director about possible drainage solutions near the tide gate and the Chalker Beach Marsh. He also got the ear of other Town officials about trying to obtain ARPA funding for water service to areas with no service.

3. OSCRC volunteer team reports:

- Literature creation (Dave Pettinicchi).
 - Dave shared an update of a prototype two-sided pamphlet with board members present at the meeting. He has distributed an electronic copy of the pamphlet to board members to seek their feedback on the design. Some design and printing options were discussed. Brochures will be ready and available for distribution during the Saybrook Street Party on June 23.
- Planning, permitting, and performance (shovel-ready) project proposals (Joe Russo).
 - The Zoom meeting between OSCRC representatives including Ed Rajotte, Dave Hopkins, Joe Russo, and Doug McCracken and state representatives, including Martha Marx, Devin Carney, Needleman, and legislative aide Breanna Horton about Fenwood seawall occurred on June 4th. The consensus of the OSCRC team is that the meeting went well and it was a good first step towards securing project money.
 - Update on the OSCRC a proposal entitled "OSCRC Living Shoreline Education" for the Constellation Energy \$500 grant. The grant was submitted and we are waiting on a decision.
 - Update on the Saybrook Manor Association wall remediation and reconstruction.
 - Update on the Oyster River dredging.
 - Jay Costello has completed an application for submitting grant proposals to the RTX Connect Up Charity.
- Donations (need leader).

4. Update on government agency and private corporation funding opportunities.

- Follow-up on Sarah Schecter of CT Sea Grant
- Julia McGrath, Grants and Special Projects Coordinator for Congressman Joe Courtney, has shared the Climate Capital Guidebook. The Climate Capital Guidebook (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/CLIMATE-CAPITAL-GUIDEBOOK-v5.29.2024-730pm.pdf>) is designed to provide a program-by-program overview of the resources available across the federal government to climate start-ups, small- and medium-sized businesses, and their investors. It aggregates current federal funding opportunities—including grants, loans, loan guarantees, and cooperative agreements for both start-ups and established businesses that focus on clean energy technologies and other climate solutions. Guidebook will be distributed at the July meeting. Let's review and pick some target items.

5. Update on Climate Change presentations to satisfy OSCRC education mission.

- Joe gave a presentation entitled “Climate Change and Sea Level Rise: Local Impact” to Bel Aire Manor Association on May 26th.
- Joe is coordinating with Chris Costa, Town Planner and Connecticut Zoning Enforcement Officer, to give a 15-minute Climate Change presentation plus questions sometime this year to Old Saybrook residents at the Town Hall.

New Business:

1. Old Saybrook Police Chief Spera, in a recent conversation with Terence McGrath, mentioned that shoreline associations that are quasi-municipalities and not special tax districts could be reimbursed for damages that are the result of FEMA-declared (state of emergency) disasters, like a hurricane. The Chief noted that FEMA would cover up to 75% of the restoration costs to a shoreline as long as there was a current (annual) engineering study showing the levels of sand prior to the disaster. Terence will do further research on this topic and report back to the OSCRC.

Additional Items:

Thanks again to Rick Bovino for hosting and snacks for the meeting.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 2, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.