

# OLD SAYBROOK COASTAL RESILIENCE COALITION, INC.

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Date: August 5, 2025 6:00 pm

Attendees: Gary Albanese, Rick Bovino, Joanne Breen, Beth Chotkowski, Michael Cohen, Jay Costello, Jamie Greacen, David Hopkins, Connie Hughes, Garry Jacobsen, Scott Loveland, Terence McGrath, Andrew Morosky, Robert Pulito, Ed Rajotte, Joe Russo

Excused: Jean Boggs, Jeff Brodersen, Marie Cerino, Marisa Giarnella, Tara Gustafson, Donna Henry, John Kennedy, Carolyn Lyle, Dave Pettinicchi, Sally Pritchard, Michael Russo

Non-Voting Affiliates:

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

The meeting was called to order at 6:16 p.m.

#### Previous Meeting Minutes:

The motion made to accept the previous month's OSCRC Board of Directors minutes. Motion made, seconded and carried.

Secretary's Report: No report.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's report read by Ed Rajotte

Bank deposits, donations, and expenses for July and August are as follows:

Deposits: \$0

Donations: \$0

Expenses: \$50 Aug 3, Connecticut Annual Charity Renewal

Current OSCRC Inc. balance as of August 5, 2025 is \$5,663.20.

Annual payment still pending from one member - Indiantown Association – Jay Costello submitted check at meeting.

Vice Chair's Report: No report.

Chair's Report: Connecticut Annual Charity Renewal Certificate

#### Old Business:

1. Old Saybrook 2025 Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) Project Update.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Step - FEMA required Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), which could take up to 3 months. Still working on the QAPP.
  - Schedule - The deadline for completing the project is August 2026. Initial public outreach for awareness and input is fall of 2025.
  - Project Goal – Complete study objectives with enough data to move forward with the design & permitting phase.
2. Chalker Beach Related Issues Update.
  - Whole Foods – Corporate/development team meeting decided to move forward with a smaller (neighborhood) store due to zoning restrictions for septic system and parking. Whole Foods still in decision mode on if/when to proceed.

- Beach Nourishment Study – On July 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 at the Fire Department Banquet Hall, RACE engineers presented three concepts on supporting beach nourishment in response to sea level rise. The engineers and association representatives sought feedback on the concepts from beach residents at the meeting. Most residents were more concerned about their view of the ocean rather than a solution to preserve their beach from sea level rise. Project is essentially on hold as costs to perform needed environmental studies for any option is estimated to be in the range of \$100,000.
- Chalker Beach Drainage/Flooding Issues – The interim solution for the drainage-related flooding of the Chalker Beach community was to spread, level, and seed ground to create a swale for dispersing water. The work amounted to returning the area to the 2015 elevations which allowed excessive stormwater to empty directly into the Long Island Sound and not into the streets and private properties of Chalker Beach. This was completed in August 2025. Permanent solutions to be evaluated as part of the Town’s multi-association marsh study.
- A project identified by Chalker Beach, the Town of Old Saybrook and the 4 Shore Coastal Resiliency Plan, addressing street flooding from Brook to Saye Streets in Chalker Beach, was completed by the Chalker Beach Improvement Association, with support from the Town of Old Saybrook. The project added stormwater basins and drainage piping from Brook Street connecting to existing basins and drainage infrastructure on Saye Street. This was completed in June 2025.

### 3. OSCRC Volunteer Team Reports:

- Literature creation (Dave Pettinicchi).
  - Literature Available - Joe Russo has copies of two information sheets (OSCRC 2-page abstract and Constellation-funded living shoreline) and a small quantity of rack cards available for distribution to the public.
- Planning, permitting, and performance (shovel-ready) project proposals (Joe Russo).
  - Fenwood Seawall Update – CT Department of Transportation has initiated work & will complete temporary repairs to the Fenwood seawall in the next month or so. More permanent repair has been initiated but will take several years due to the required design, planning and permitting. Repairs are tentatively scheduled for completion by Labor Day 2028.

### 4. Government & Private Corporation Funding

- Private Funding (Joe Russo)
  - Rockfall Foundation has grants available for \$1k to \$5k, but must be within their “focus areas”. See their website for more information.
  - Charitable Foundations (Joe Russo) - Joe to provide a list of foundations that have been contacted about their charitable funds in the near future.
- Government Agency Funding.
  - CT Sea Grant Funding - Funding programs and their application deadlines can be found on the LIS Resource Hub Page ([www.lisresilience.org](http://www.lisresilience.org)) and [DEEP Climate Resilience Fund](#).
    - LIS Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan – 2025 plan has been approved and issued. This document is required reference for most LIS and Sea Grant funding programs and is available on-line, as well as the 4-page “plan at a Glance” documents.
  - Town Funding Activity
    - Tree Grant (Carolyn Lyle) – Town has received a matching grant (\$10k Town/\$10k State) for an inventory of all trees in Town. Separate application will be made for tree planting grant once inventory is complete.
    - Back River & South Cove (Doug McCracken) – Town is preparing applications for Back River Bank Erosion and South Cove Dredging (two projects that already have had

some previous work done) and could be ready for a spring 2026 submittal. No update.

5. Education Mission - Update on Climate Change presentations to satisfy OSCRC education mission.
  - OSCRC Climate Change Presentation - Joe is coordinating with Town officials. Carolyn will help get the word out about this presentation.
  - Saybrook Events Publication – Joe Russo searching articles for fall publication.
  - Master Gardeners - Joe Russo and Ed Rajotte will give a presentation on impact of climate change on plants and insects for a Master Gardeners course on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> in Haddam, CT.
  - OSCRC Video - Joe provided an outline to the videographer, Parker Theibault, for the educational video on climate change and sea level rise.
6. FEMA Disaster Declaration Damages (Terence McGrath) - On hold until pending new Old Saybrook Chief of Police. Members are reminded that associations must have an up-to-date survey of their beaches to be eligible for FEMA funding. No report.
7. Old Saybrook Land Trust (Carolyn Lyle) – There was no July meeting. Nothing to report.
8. Old Saybrook/Borough of Fenwick Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan-NHMP (Doug McCracken) - Five-year report is complete and available on the Old Saybrook website. He indicated that the Plan still needs FEMA approval as the final step.
9. Town of Old Saybrook News – Go to Town website ([www.oldsaybrookct.gov](http://www.oldsaybrookct.gov)) for news, notifications, and meeting minutes and upcoming agendas.
  - Saybrook Point Land Swap – Trying to settle key points in agreement to protect Town’s interest. No date on public vote.
  - CT legislature’s “Act Concerning Transit-Oriented Communities” (Doug McCracken) - CT legislators to revisit act in September. Town will evaluate impact and potential responses/actions.
  - Ferry Road Soccer Field (Doug McCracken) - Town of Old Saybrook was awarded a STEAP Grant to renovate the Ferry Road soccer field. Discussion initiated after reception of grant.
  - Saybrook Point Sidewalks (Doug McCracken) - The Town of Old Saybrook has begun to repair sidewalks on Main Street in Town and will be shifting work to new sidewalks from Luigi’s location in Old Saybrook to Westbrook line.
  - CT grant for \$76,923 was received in July by Town to complete a two-part analysis of mixed-use, multi-family housing related regulations in the B-1 business district (Main Street) and how to create incentives for developers.
10. Chamber of Commerce (Jamie Greacen)
  - Nautilus Architects Environmental Event - Carolyn and Jamie represented OSCRC on a panel for an environmental event which was held on July 17 at 4:00 pm at Nautilus Architects premises in Old Lyme.
11. OSCRC Quarterly Newsletter (Jamie Greacen) – First OSCRC quarterly newsletter distributed in July.
  - Suggestions and information from OSCRC members for future newsletters should be emailed directly to Jaime.
  - Newsletter or OSCRC website link should be posted on Association websites.
  - October Issue – Jamie has started next issue.
    - Beach Nourishment article initiated
    - Each issue will have one article focusing on one of the beach associations.
    - Articles and ideas from OSCRC members very welcome.
    - Contact/newsletter transmittal lists are requested

New Business:

1. OSCRC Project Priority Matrix – Jay Costello, Joanne Breen and Jamie Greacen volunteered to spearhead creation of a project priority matrix with a goal of establishing project priorities, funding sources and deadlines for OSCRC projects.
  - OSCRC members are encouraged to review the Matrix to identify projects for future support and funding.

Additional Items:

A thank you to Rick Bovino for hosting and for providing dinner prior to the meeting.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 2, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.