

OLD SAYBROOK COASTAL RESILIENCE COALITION, INC.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Date: July 1, 2025 6:00 pm

Attendees: Gary Albanese, Rick Bovino, Joanne Breen, Marie Cerino, Beth Chotkowski, Michael Cohen, Jay Costello, Connie Hughes, Carolyn Lyle, Terence McGrath, Andrew Morosky, Robert Pulito, Ed Rajotte, Joe Russo

Excused: Jean Boggs, Jeff Brodersen, Marisa Giarnella, Jamie Greacen, Tara Gustafson, Donna Henry, David Hopkins, Garry Jacobsen, John Kennedy, Scott Loveland, Dave Pettinicchi, Sally Pritchard, Michael Russo

Non-Voting Affiliates: Doug McCracken

Friends:

AGENDA ITEMS

The meeting was called to order at 6:24 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 the previous month are as follows:

Deposits: \$0

Donations: \$0

Expenses: \$0

Current OSCRC Inc. balance as of July 1, 2025 is \$5,713.20.

Annual payment still pending from one member - Indiantown Association – Jay Costello to follow up.

Vice Chair's Report: No report.

Chair's Report: No report.

- Guest Presentation: Beth Kimmse, a Fuss & O'Neill contractor, gave a presentation on the CIRCA Resilient Mystic project, which is a study initiated by the Town of Stonington and CIRCA to investigate options for flood risk and heat risk reduction in the downtown Mystic borough of Stonington.

Old Business:

1. Old Saybrook 2025 Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) Project Update.
 - Contract with consultant Fuss & O'Neil signed on May 6th.
 - 1st Step - FEMA required Quality Assurance (Q/A) plan, which could take up to 3 months.
 - Schedule - The deadline for completing the project is August 2026. Public outreach to follow in the fall of 2026.

- 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 – Public & Association presentation meeting set for 9:30 AM on Saturday July 19th at the Fire Department Banquet Hall, Clark Field on Elm Street. RACE Engineering to make presentation on 3 main alternatives & progress so far. Meeting with DEEP Fisheries staff and request permitting & environmental feedback/concerns to be scheduled.
 - Chalker Beach Drainage/Flooding Issues – A solution to drainage related flooding between Brook Street & Saye Street has been worked out between the Town of Old Saybrook and property owners.
 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.
 - Constellation Energy \$500 grant (“OSCRC Living Shoreline Education”) - Constellation “Living Shoreline” information sheet is available for distribution. Joe met with a videographer, Parker Theibault about making a 15-minute educational video on climate change and sea level rise. The Board of Directors approved an allocation of \$1500.00 for the video.
 - 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)
 - RTX (Jay Costello) - OSCRC received a formal rejection from RTX for our 2024 grant application essentially stating our application was not granted due to “lack of alignment with our impact pillars and/or employee engagement with the organization”.
 - 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) 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.
 - Federal/State Congressional Funding
 - Joe Courtney’s office (Joanne Breen)- 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 for a Master Gardeners course on Sept. 23rd in Haddam, CT.
 - Future Presentations - Input for places/people for OSCRC to do educational presentations is encouraged.
 6. FEMA Disaster Declaration Damages (Terrence 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.
 7. Old Saybrook Land Trust (Carolyn Lyle) – Carolyn Lyle attended the June meeting; nothing significant 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) for news, notifications, and meeting minutes and upcoming agendas.
 - Saybrook Point Land Swap - More information on this Land Swap will be in a future public meeting. No Update.
 - CT legislature’s “Act Concerning Transit-Oriented Communities” (Doug McCracken) – Town evaluating impact and Town potential responses/actions. No update.
 - Ferry Road Soccer Field (Doug McCracken) - Town of Old Saybrook was awarded a STEAP Grant to renovate the Ferry Road soccer field.
 - Saybrook Point Sidewalks (Doug McCracken) - The Town of Old Saybrook has begun to repair sidewalks in town and add new sidewalk in the vicinity of Saybrook Point.
 10. Chamber of Commerce (Jamie Greacen)
 - Nautilus Architects Environmental Event - Carolyn and Jamie will represent OSCRC on a panel for an environmental event to be held on July 17 at 4:00 pm at Nautilus Architects premises in Old Lyme.
 11. OSCRC Quarterly Newsletter (Jamie Greacen) – First newsletter publication was approved for publication in July.
 - All OSCRC Association members should provide content for each newsletter.
 - Suggestions and information for future newsletters should be emailed directly to Jaime.
 - Newsletter or OSCRC website link should be posted on Association websites.

New Business:

1. OSCRC Project Priority Matrix – A suggestion was made to develop an OSCRC priority list of grant programs and schedules. The Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP) matrix includes OSCRC-related projects and could be a good starting point for developing a list. Content for the priority list could also be drawn from Doug’s “matrix of construction projects” and/or from “identified problems” published in an earlier (2022) OSCRC report. OSCRC members were asked 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, August 5, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.