



OLD SAYBROOK COASTAL RESILIENCE COALITION, INC.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Date: November 4, 2025 6:00 pm

Attendees: Gary Albanese, Rick Bovino, J Brooke, Joanne Breen, Joseph Budnick, Michael Cohen, Jamie Greacen, Donna Henry, David Hopkins, Garry Jacobsen, Edwin Rajotte, Joseph Russo, Michael Russo

Excused: Jeff Brodersen, Marie Cerino, Beth Chotkowski, Jay Costello, Marisa Giarnella, Tara Gustafson, Connie Hughes, John Kennedy, Scott Loveland, Carolyn Lyle, Terence McGrath, Andrew Morosky, Steve Norcia, Dave Pettinicchi, Sally Pritchard, Robert Pulito

Non-Voting Affiliates: Doug McCracken

AGENDA ITEMS

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm.

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.

All member dues are paid.

Bank deposits, donations, and expenses for October are as follows:

Deposits: \$250 Oct. 09, Stipend: New London County Agricultural Extension Council Inc.

In Kind Donations: \$0

Expenses: \$250, Oct. 19, Focus Shift Media LLC, deposit on educational video

Current OSCRC Inc. balance as of November 4, 2025 is \$5,913.20.

Vice Chair's Report: No report.

Chair's Report: No report.

Old Business:

1. Old Saybrook 2025 Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) Project Update.
 - 1st Step - Field data collection has been initiated and is expected to be completed by the end of 2025.
 - 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. Being delayed in lieu of public meeting in either April or May of next year.
2. Chalker Beach Related Issues Update.
 - Whole Foods – Design is moving forward with application to P&Z this year.
 - Beach Nourishment Study – Association member response to the study, especially Chalker Beach and Belair manor beach front residents, focused on concern about limited visibility given the proposed dune height. 75% of Bel-Aire Manor residents, so not only the waterfront, voted

unanimously not to proceed further, with reasons cited being not only impact on view, but loss of private property, restricted access to the beachfront, and concerns about the new beachfront becoming state-owned property. 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-\$150,000. Chalker Beach Association is requesting a formal proposal to continue with environmental work for Alternative 2 (Dune at elevation 12.0 ft).

- Chalker Beach Drainage/Flooding Improvement Project – Grasses are reported to be taking hold and the outlet swale is reported to be functioning as designed. There has been only minor flooding.
3. 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.
 4. Planning, permitting, and performance (shovel-ready) project proposals (Joe Russo).
 - Doug reported that the Town of Old Saybrook is going for grant for the next phase of the Back River project. That is, the collection of data to secure the necessary permits to be shovel ready. Chris Costa reported that the Town received a writing assisting grant for this next phase of the project from UCONN's LIS Resilience Grant Writing Assistance Program.
 5. OSCRC Project Priority Tracking
 - Project tracker spreadsheet (in excel format) has been updated - Completed projects moved to the bottom and Town projects moved to a separate tab. Active project list has been trimmed down to 10 or so projects and these are at the top.
 - Columns have been added to show potential funding sources from the SEA Grant web site have been listed for each project along with Sea Grant site funding categories and funding eligibility (rolling, closed or closure dates) listed.
 - A notebook of all potential funding sources that seemed to apply to OSCRC priorities has been assembled. This funding source book has been scanned and sent to the project tracking subcommittee and Joe Russo.
 - Jay Costello emphasized that we will need members to take "ownership" of projects and pursue funding. There are November 21 deadlines for some funding that could apply to OSCRC's Education mandate. Jay agreed to send pdf and excel files of the tracking sheet to all members asked all members to review the spreadsheet and comment and pick projects to support.
 - Gary Albanese reiterated that each association should provide two of their highest priority drainage issues that he can take to the Town DPW for discussion on possible action.
 6. Private and Government Funding Opportunities
 - 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 - LIS Resource Hub Page (www.lisresilience.org) and [DEEP Climate Resilience Fund](#). New funding is becoming available; of special note is the DEEP Resilience Fund. Also see OSCRC Project Priority Matrix in Item 3, above.
 - DEEP Resiliency Funding – Next fiscal year funding is now available and has December and January deadlines depending on project type.

- Town Funding Activity
 - Tree Grant (Carolyn Lyle) – Tree inventory of all trees on Town roads has been completed and is available on the Town web site. 1,208 trees reported with a 5-year management plan by priority established. A tree planting plan is still needed.
 - 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. Nothing new.
7. Education Mission - Update on Climate Change presentations to satisfy OSCRC education mission.
 - OSCRC Climate Change Presentation - Joe is coordinating with Town officials.
 - Saybrook Events Publication – Joe Russo searching articles. Deadline is 09/15 for December publication. Contact Jeniffer Donahue.
 - Old Saybrook Neighbor Magazine – Dave Pettinicchi is working on an article for the Old Saybrook Neighbor Magazine. He is looking for help with the article.
 - Master Gardeners - Joe Russo and Ed Rajotte made their presentation on impact of climate change on plants and pests, which was reported to have been well received. A \$250 check made out to OSCRC was received for this effort.
 - OSCRC Video - Presentation will be changed to three 5-minute videos instead of one 15-minute video. Interviews for video footage regarding climate impact will begin soon.
 - Communication Strategy – Ed Rajotte advised he is ready to put out the news release to multiple news agencies but has reservations on potential “flooding” of responses. Group discussion resulted in the following:
 - Initial release to only five (5) agencies as an initial check on potential responses, and
 - Jame Greacen designated as the "clearing house" (email & phone) for initial responses.
 8. 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 further report.
 9. Old Saybrook Land Trust (Carolyn Lyle) – Carolyn reported that due to conflicting responsibilities, she can no longer attend these meetings. A volunteer is needed.
 10. Old Saybrook/Borough of Fenwick Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan-NHMP (Doug McCracken) - Five-year report is complete and available on the Old Saybrook website. FEMA approval still needed as the final step. Nothing new reported.
 11. 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 – Trying to settle key points in agreement to protect Town’s interest. No date on public vote. Nothing new reported.
 - CT legislature’s “Act Concerning Transit-Oriented Communities” (Doug McCracken) –CT legislators are still debating the legislative act after the initial version was vetoed by the Governor. Council of Small Towns and Local COGs have submitted a separate joint outline of their proposed plan in response to initial proposed legislation. Town is still evaluating 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. Nothing new to report.
 - Townwide 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.
 - Resiliency Fund – Additional \$100,000 was appropriated to the Town’s new resiliency fund in a Town budget meeting on 09/09/25. This is in addition to the \$50,000 previously approved.
12. Chamber of Commerce (Jamie Greacen) – Nothing new to report. The OSCRC Board approved the payment of next year’s dues to continue being a member of the Chamber.
13. OSCRC Quarterly Newsletter (Jamie Greacen) – First OSCRC quarterly newsletter distributed in July.
- Member Association Websites – Members encourage to get newsletter or OSCRC website link posted on Association websites.
 - October Issue – Jamie is prepared to issue the next newsletter.
 - Articles and ideas from OSCRC members very welcome.
 - Contact/newsletter transmittal lists are requested.
 - Future Issues - Suggestions and information from OSCRC members for future newsletters should be emailed directly to Jamie.

New Business:

1. CIRCA (Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation conference to be held November 13, 2025 (9AM to 4PM) at the Branford House on the Avery Point UConn campus.

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, December 2nd at 6 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.