



OLD SAYBROOK COASTAL RESILIENCE COALITION, INC.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Date: September 2, 2025 6:00 pm

Attendees: Rick Bovino, Joanne Breen, Marie Cerino, Michael Cohen, Jay Costello, Donna Henry, Connie Hughes, Garry Jacobsen, Carolyn Lyle, Terence McGrath, Sally Pritchard, Robert Pulito, Ed Rajotte, Joe Russo

Excused: Gary Albanese, Jeff Brodersen, Beth Chotkowski, Marisa Giarnella, Jamie Greacen, Tara Gustafson, David Hopkins, John Kennedy, Scott Loveland, Andrew Morosky, Dave Pettinicchi, Michael Russo

Non-Voting Affiliates: Doug McCracken

AGENDA ITEMS

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 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

All member dues are apaid.

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

Deposits: \$250 Donation: Indian Town

In Kind Donations: \$0

Expenses: \$0

Current OSCRC Inc. balance as of September 2, 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 - FEMA required Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) is complete. Next step is field data collection which should 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.
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 voted unanimously not to proceed further, with reasons cited being not only impact on waterfront 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. 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 – Temporary solution (outlet swale) is constructed. Once planted grasses take hold, silt fence will be removed.

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 – Permanent repairs to the Fenwood seawall by the Department of Transportation are tentatively scheduled for completion by Labor Day 2028.
- OSCRC Project Priority Matrix – Jay Costello reported that a very preliminary draft has been initiated and forwarded to Joanne Breen and Jamie Greacen for initial comment. Next step is to trim the spreadsheet list down to 10 or so projects and then research potential funding and deadlines for OSCRC projects. Goal is to have something to present at the next meeting.

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) and [DEEP Climate Resilience Fund](#). No further report
 - DEEP Resiliency Funding – Next fiscal year funding has reportedly been approved by State legislature and should be available soon.
 - 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.
- Saybrook Events Publication – Joe Russo searching articles. Deadline is 09/15 for December publication. Contact Jeniffer Donahue.
- Master Gardeners - Joe Russo and Ed Rajotte have received a small stipend to give a presentation on impact of climate change on plants and insects for a Master Gardeners course on Sept. 23rd in Haddam, CT.

- OSCRC Video - Joe Russo and Connie Hughes teleconferenced with videographer, Parker Theibault to discuss materials for the OSCRC educational video on climate change and sea level rise. It was agreed change presentation to three 5-minute videos instead of one 15-minute video.
 - News Release – Ed Rajotte presented a draft news release regarding the recently completed Chalker Beach projects. After some discussion regarding timing of release, it was agreed to move forward.
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 further report.
 7. Old Saybrook Land Trust (Carolyn Lyle) – Did not attend August meeting; next meeting is 09/23/25.
 - Presentation of results of townwide tree inventory (Town parks) on Tuesday 09/23/25. 5PM public presentation at Town Hall & 6PM Land Trust meeting presentation.
 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; FEMA approval still needed as the final step. Nothing new reported.
 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 – 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) – In September, CT legislators to revisit initial legislative act vetoed by 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 – Town budget meeting will be held in Middle School Auditorium at 6PM on 09/09/25 will include proposal to move \$100,000 into the newly created resiliency fund.
 10. Chamber of Commerce (Jamie Greacen) – No August meeting; No report.
 11. 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 has started next issue.
 - Beach Nourishment article initiated
 - 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 Jaime.

12. OSCRC Project Priority Matrix – Jay Costello reported that a very preliminary draft has been initiated and forwarded to Joanne Breen and Jamie Greacen for volunteered to spearhead creation of a project priority matrix with a goal of establishing project priorities, funding sources and deadlines for OSCRC projects.

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. More conference registration information to follow.

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, October 7, 2025 at 6PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.