



OLD SAYBROOK COASTAL RESILIENCE COALITION, INC.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Date: February 3, 2026 6:00 pm

Attendees: Gary Albanese, Rick Bovino, Joanne Breen, J Brooke, Joseph Budnick, Marie Cerino, Jay Costello, Jamie Greacen, Garry Jacobsen, Terence McGrath, Andrew Morosky, Edwin Rajotte, Joseph Russo

Excused: Jeff Brodersen, Beth Chotkowski, Michael Cohen, Marisa Giarnella, Tara Gustafson, Donna Henry, David Hopkins, Connie Hughes, John Kennedy, Scott Loveland, Carolyn Lyle, Steve Norcia, Dave Pettinichchi, Sally Pritchard, Robert Pulito, Michael Russo

Non-Voting Affiliates: Doug McCracken, Matthew Tardella, Kayla Redanz

AGENDA ITEMS

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

New Non-Voting Affiliates: Motion made to give Matthew Tardella and Kayla Redanz "Non-Voting Affiliate" status in the OSCRC. Motion seconded and carried.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Motion made to accept the previous month's OSCRC Board of Directors minutes. Motion seconded and carried.

Secretary's Report: No report.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's report read by Ed Rajotte.

2026 member donations are now due.

Bank deposits, donations, and expenses for January and February are as follows:

Deposits: \$10,000, Vanguard Charity Donation (J Russo)

In Kind Donations: \$0

Expenses: \$258.93, HostGator Website Renewal (reimbursement to J Russo)

Current OSCRC Inc. balance as of February 3, 2026 is \$15,519.27.

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 – No Change
 - The project goal is to collect enough data to move forward with the design & permitting phase.
 - Tide gauges, data logger, and barometric sensors have been deployed and monitoring/measurements have begun.
 - The deadline for completing the project is August 2026. Initial public outreach for awareness and input is early spring, 2026.
2. Chalker Beach Related Issues Update.
 - Whole Foods – Property lease agreement signed with Whole Foods. Project scope has been downsized to meet previous P&Z concerns and conditions. Design is moving forward with application to P&Z in 2026; submittal date not set. No Change

- Beach Nourishment Study – OSCRC has identified limited funding (\$10,000) to proceed with efforts to identify and submit for broader grant funding based on implementation of Alternative 2 (Dune at elevation 12.0 ft).
3. Literature creation (Dave Pettinicchi).
 - Literature Available
 - Information Sheets - OSCRC 2-page abstract and Constellation living shoreline
 - Rack cards for distribution to the public.
 4. Planning, permitting, and performance (shovel-ready) project proposals (Joe Russo).
 - Town of Old Saybrook has submitted a CT DEEP LIS Ecosystems grant application in the amount of \$454,330 to fund the next phase of the Back River project; 60-100% design, specifications and permitting. Chris Costa reported that the Town has 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 (Jay Costello)
 - Project tracker spreadsheet – Revised to reflect latest member submitted project priorities.
 - TOS Collaboration – Jay Costello has discussed OSCRC collaboration with TOS with Chris Costa. Town response was positive. Meeting in late February or early March was proposed to discuss Town priorities from the 2024 NHMP and how OSCRC can help.
 6. Private and Government Funding Opportunities
 - Private Funding (Joe Russo)
 - Rockfall Foundation - Grants available for \$1k to \$5k; must be within their “focus areas”. See their website for more information. Nothing new.
 - Charitable Foundations (Joe Russo) - Nothing new.
 - Government Agency Funding.
 - CT Sea Grant Funding - LIS Resource Hub Page (www.lisresilience.org) and [DEEP Climate Resilience Fund](#).
 - Recent OSCRC Funding Activity
 - LIS Community Impact Fund – Letter of Interest for education and community outreach funding was not accepted. Comments received with encouragement to resubmit in next funding round.
 - Sustainable Ct Community Match Fund – Joe Russo & Jay Costello met with representative. Program has a max grant of \$6000 and requires an equal match as well as private donors equal to grant amount over 100 (i.e. 60 separate donors to receive \$6000). Membership agreed not to pursue this grant.
 - Upcoming Funded Programs
 - Living Shoreline Planning Series – **March 3rd** - Training and technical assistance are intended to build capacity towards designing, permitting, and implementing living shoreline projects in New England and ensure your community or organization is well positioned to secure funding to advance the project beyond the conceptual design phase.
 - Climate Smart Communities Initiative – **March 12th** – Help communities advance climate resilience plans and projects. Funding supports activities such as risk and vulnerability assessments, community engagement, project prioritization, and early implementation actions.
 - NFW Coastal Resilience Fund 2026 – **March 31st** - Now soliciting pre-proposals for coastal resilience projects that restore, increase, and strengthen natural infrastructure such as coastal marshes and wetlands, *dune and beach systems*, oyster and coral reefs, rivers and floodplains, coastal forest, and barrier islands that mitigate the impacts of storms and other coastal hazards to communities.

- Grow Grants – **March 17 & September 15** - Grow Grants support established groups to sustain their current work or build on past success in new ways. Centered around Environmental Justice (EJ) and implementation of Guiding Practices.
 - 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. Carolyn noted that no additional funding has been made available by the Town for the next step (tree planting plan) but other funding sources are available.
 - South Cove (Doug McCracken) – Town is preparing an application for South Cove Dredging (this project already has 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 for future events.
 - Saybrook Events Publication – Joe Russo to explore articles for publication in 2026. Contact for the magazine Jennifer Donahue.
 - Old Saybrook Neighbor Magazine – Dave Pettinicchi has submitted an article for the Old Saybrook Neighbor Magazine. Publication will be in next issue.
 - OSCRC Video - Presentation on climate impact will be three 5-minute videos instead of one 15-minute video. Some shore front video footage has been shot & interviews to be initiated. Use of drone footage was suggested.
 - CT River Valley Environmental Summit. May 2, 2026, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT - Carolyn Lyle and Joe Russo will prepare a presentation on Health of the River for the Summit. Presentation is due 02/09/26.
 8. FEMA Disaster Declaration Damages (Terence McGrath) - On hold 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 (Gary Jacobsen) - No report.
 10. Old Saybrook/Borough of Fenwick Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan-NHMP (Doug McCracken) - Five-year report is complete & approved by FEMA. Available on the Old Saybrook website.
 11. Town of Old Saybrook News – News, notifications, meeting minutes and upcoming agendas available on Town website (www.oldsaybrookct.gov).
 - Saybrook Point Land Swap – Public meeting held 02/02/26 and video is available on Town web site. Public referendum to be held March 31, 2026.
 - CT legislature’s “Act Concerning Transit-Oriented Communities” (Doug McCracken) – Legislation (HB 8002) was passed. Assigns task of affordable housing plan to regional planning agencies (Lower CT River COG for Old Saybrook), who in turn will collect feedback from their representative Towns.
 - Townwide Sidewalks (Doug McCracken) - The Town of Old Saybrook is continuing construction of sidewalk improvements on Main Street in Town and new sections of walk from Luigi’s location in Old Saybrook to Westbrook line.
 - Mixed Use Multi-Family Housing – State 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. One proposal under discussion is apartments above businesses.
 - 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. OSCRC should consider specific projects/needs for formal request for funding.

12. Chamber of Commerce (Jamie Greacen) – Jamie Greacen & Carolyn Lyle talked with Chip Adams who runs a charter business out of Saybrook Point. Chip is involved with several groups that align with our mission including the River Conservancy, Estuary Magazine, and the CT River Conservancy. Also, Save the Sound has a Climate and Resilience Institute that closely aligns with OSCRC’s mission.
13. OSCRC Quarterly Newsletter (Jamie Greacen) – The first-quarter 2026 OSCRC quarterly newsletter was reviewed by Board and was approved for distribution.
- Member Association Websites – Members are encouraged to get newsletter or OSCRC website link posted on Association websites.
 - April, 2026 Issue – Jamie has begun preparing next newsletter. It was suggested that we should try to stick with OSCRC related items as much as possible to let people know what we are interested and what we are doing.
 - Future Issue Ideas - As always, articles & ideas are needed; suggestions and information from OSCRC members for future newsletters should be emailed directly to Jamie.
 - Newsletter Transmittal List – Jamie Greacen maintains a list for those who will automatically receive the newsletter each period. Contact information to add to the list should be emailed directly to Jamie.
14. Communication Strategy (Ed Rajotte)
- Press release went out on 02/01/26. Channel 61 picked it up immediately and used it for a short interest story that night.
 - Ed Suggested that there is a need to get releases out to recipients beyond Old Saybrook and is looking for ideas and means to do this.

New Business:

- 1) Water Resources Development Act – Joanne Breen reported discussions from Joe Courtney’s office. Water Resources Development Act authorized the Army Corps of Engineers to perform studies related to navigation, resilience, etc. based on input received from local RPA’s and communities. Joanne to investigate and provide more information.
- 2) Upcoming Events
- USGS Compound Flood Hazard Mapper Tool Workshop – **Feb 27, 2026 (9:30 AM-11:30am)**
 - Connecticut Assoc of Wetland Scientists (CAWS) Annual Conference – **March 04, 2026**
 - 2026 Connecticut Land Conservation Annual Conference – **March 21, 2026**
 - 2026 Lear-Conant Environmental Symposium on Sea Level Rise: Measurement, Understanding & Adaptation – **April 10-11, 2026**
 - MyCoast Pilot Project Webinar – Update on program progress in New London, Groton & Stonington. MYCoast is a publicly accessible database where community members can upload photos to share local impacts & inform on flooding. **April 22, 2026 (1-2pm)**

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, March 3rd at 6 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.