



OLD SAYBROOK COASTAL RESILIENCE COALITION, INC.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Date: January 6, 2026 6:00 pm

Attendees: Gary Albanese, Rick Bovino, Joanne Breen, J Brooke, Joseph Budnick, Marie Cerino, Michael Cohen, Jay Costello, Jamie Greacen, David Hopkins, Connie Hughes, Carolyn Lyle, Andrew Morosky, Steve Norcia, Sally Pritchard, Edwin Rajotte, Joseph Russo

Excused: Jeff Brodersen, Beth Chotkowski, Marisa Giarnella, Tara Gustafson, Donna Henry, Garry Jacobsen, John Kennedy, Scott Loveland, Terence McGrath, Dave Pettinicchi, Robert Pulito, Michael Russo

Non-Voting Affiliates:

Guests: Matthew Tardella and Kayla Redanz; Eastern Connecticut University Environmental Studies Graduate Students

AGENDA ITEMS

The meeting was called to order at 6:14 pm.

Previous Meeting Minutes: 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 2025 member donations are paid. 2026 member donations are due in January.

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

Deposits: \$0

In Kind Donations: \$0

Expenses: \$0

Current OSCRC Inc. balance as of January 6, 2026 is \$5,778.20.

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.
 - 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.

- Beach Nourishment Study – Chalker Beach Association has voted not to provide additional Association funding for environmental studies to identify/assess off-shore sand sources. 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 - 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).
 - 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)
 - LIS Community Impact Fund – OSCRC has submitted a Letter of Interest for education and community outreach funding. Many applications were received and responses on accepted LOI are expected by January 25th. If LOI is accepted then a more formal application will be required.
 - Project tracker spreadsheet (in excel format) – After discussion on the need for input on project priorities for funding/grant applications, Jay Costello will edit the project tracker sheet to show his recommended top 10 projects and issue that to members for input & discussion.
 - Jay Costello emphasized that funding applications often require identification of project leaders, scope & schedules, so we will need members to take “ownership” of projects in order to pursue funding. He asked all members to review the spreadsheet and comment and pick projects to support.
 - Gary Albanese previously suggested that each association 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. Nothing new.
 - Charitable Foundations (Joe Russo) - Joe to provide a list of foundations that have been contacted about their charitable funds. Nothing new.
 - Government Agency Funding.
 - CT Sea Grant Funding - LIS Resource Hub Page (www.lisresilience.org) and [DEEP Climate Resilience Fund](#).
 - Recently Funded Programs - Jay Costello presented a quick review of the funding sources that have recently opened and their deadlines.
 - LIS Resilience Planning Support – Jan 30th
 - Climate Smart Communities Initiative – March 12th
 - LIS Stewardship Fund – Feb 5th
 - 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 Jeniffer Donahue.
 - Old Saybrook Neighbor Magazine – Dave Pettinicchi has submitted an article for the Old Saybrook Neighbor Magazine. Publication will be next issue.
 - OSCRC Video - Presentation on climate impact will be broken into 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 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. Garry Jacobsen agreed to take Carolyn's place as the OSCRC representative to the Old Saybrook Land Trust. No report.
 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. Plan still under review by FEMA. Nothing new to report.
 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) – Legislation was passed in late 2025. Impact and/or any action to be taken by the Town concerning this legislation is under review.
 - 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.
 - 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) – Next meeting is January 8th. Nothing new to report.
 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. Articles & ideas needed.

- Future Issues - Suggestions and information from OSCRC members for future newsletters should be emailed directly to Jamie.
- Contact/newsletter transmittal lists are requested.

14. Communication Strategy (Ed Rajotte)

- Ed is ready to put out the news release to multiple news agencies in January.
- 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:

No new business.

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, February 3rd at 6 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm.