



OLD SAYBROOK COASTAL RESILIENCE COALITION, INC.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Date: March 3, 2026

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

Attendees: Gary Albanese, Rick Bovino, J Brooke, Marie Cerino, Michael Cohen, Jay Costello, Jamie Greacen, Donna Henry, Garry Jacobsen, Carolyn Lyle, Terence McGrath, Andrew Morosky, Robert Pulito, Edwin Rajotte, Joseph Russo

Excused: Joanne Breen, Jeff Brodersen, Joseph Budnick, Beth Chotkowski, Marisa Giarnella, Tara Gustafson, David Hopkins, Connie Hughes, John Kennedy, Scott Loveland, Steve Norcia, Dave Pettinicchi, Sally Pritchard, Michael Russo

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

Special Guest – William Onofrio, Old Saybrook Chief of Police

AGENDA ITEMS

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 February and March are as follows:

Deposits: \$1,000.00 Mar. 3, Donations Received: Chalker Beach, Great Hammock Beach, Knollwood Beach, Indiantown and Saybrook Manor Cove

In Kind Donations: \$0

Expenses: \$0

Current OSCRC Inc. balance as of March 3, 2026 is \$16,519.27.

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.
 - Data Collection - Tide gauges, data logger, and barometric sensors have been deployed and monitoring/measurements have begun.
 - Mapping – Available mapping for wetland, water limits, etc. are not matching up with field data being collected, so additional work will be required to update mapping.
 - Schedule - Initial public outreach for awareness and input will be pushed off to early summer due to mapping updates needed. Project completion still scheduled for August 2026.

2. Chalker Beach Related Issues Update.
 - Whole Foods – Whole foods has agreed to downsized project scope to meet previous P&Z concerns and conditions. Design expected to move forward with application to P&Z in late 2026, but approval to start still pending from developer.
 - 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).
 - NFWF Resilience Funding – OSCRC is considering submittal of a LOI but will meet with the Town Planner first to gauge Town support. Letter of Intent (LOI) due March 31st.
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 and funding deadlines.
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 Links- LIS Resource Hub Page (www.lisresilience.org) and [DEEP Climate Resilience Fund](#).
 - 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.
 - Recent OSCRC Funding Activity
 - TOS Collaboration - OSCRC members to meet on 03/11/26 with Chris Costa at TOS Planning to discuss opportunities to work together on shared interests.
 - Applications – None filed this month.
 - Upcoming Funding Programs
 - NFWF 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 **September 15** - Grow Grants support established groups to sustain their current work or build on past success in new ways. This seems a limited opportunity for OSCRC as funding approvals is centered around Environmental Justice (EJ)..

- NFWF Futures Fund – May 19th. 50% Match required. Grants \$50,000 to \$2,000,000.
- Town Funding Activity
 - Tree Grant (Carolyn Lyle). Nothing new.
 - South Cove (Doug McCracken) – Town is considering submittal of 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.
 - Drainage – Town is considering evaluation of association drainage issues by the DPW under their MS4 program. Benefit is unclear and needs follow-up.
- 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 –OSCR promo article appeared in the latest issue.
 - OSCRC Video - Presentation on climate impact is in production. It 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; researching possible Town drone footage is an option.
 - CT River Valley Environmental Summit. May 2, 2026, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT - Carolyn Lyle is submitting a presentation on Health of the River for the Summit.
- 8. FEMA Disaster Declaration Damages (Terence McGrath) – Chief William Onofrio provided some background on FEMA’s Public Assistance Program and the Town’s efforts to gather data for storm damage cost recovery. Terrance McGrath (subsequently) provided FEMA’s Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide to all members, which also can be found on-line at <http://www.fema.gov/public-assistancepolicy-and-guidance>. The Chief agreed that there could be sharing of some Town data, including drone coverage, with the associations. Also, some of the survey data from beach sections performed for the Chalker Beach nourishment study could be available for the included associations. Members are reminded that associations must have an up-to-date survey of their beaches to be eligible for FEMA funding.
- 9. Old Saybrook Land Trust (Gary Jacobsen) - No meeting in February. Meetings on 3rd Saturday so next meetings are March 21st and April 18th.
- 10. Town of Old Saybrook News – News, notifications, meeting minutes and upcoming agendas available on Town website (www.oldsaybrookct.gov).
 - Saybrook Point Land Swap – Video of 02/02/26 public meeting 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. No further report.
 - 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. No further report.
 - 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. Town sees this as their matching funds, but OSCRC should consider specific projects/needs for formal request for funding and make a pitch at the end of each fiscal year. Probably has to be a low-cost project.

11. Chamber of Commerce (Jamie Greacen) –Chip Adams (who runs a charter business out of Saybrook Point) could be a good contact as he 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.
12. 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 presented an initial draft for comments and ideas. 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.
13. Communication Strategy (Ed Rajotte)
 - Press releases – No further report.
14. Upcoming Events
 - SRC 3rd Annual Funding Workshop – Gateway Community College, New Haven. Registration required. **March 31st (9:30am-4pm)**
 - 2026 Lear-Conant Environmental Symposium on Sea Level Rise: Measurement, Understanding & Adaptation – **April 10-11**
 - MyCoast Pilot Project Webinar – **April 22, 2026 (1-2pm)**. 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. To participate in the pilot program, download the MyCoast app for Apple iOS devices or for Android devices, then make an account and upload images of these events to the Connecticut database. To learn more about the program visit www.mycoast.org/ct.

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, April 7th at 6 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.