



OLD SAYBROOK COASTAL RESILIENCE COALITION, INC.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Date: May 5, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 6:09 pm.

Attendees: Gary Albanese, Rick Bovino, Joanne Breen, Joseph Budnick, Marie Cerino, Michael Cohen, Jay Costello, Jamie Greacen, Donna Henry, Connie Hughes, Garry Jacobsen, Terence McGrath, Andrew Morosky, Robert Pulito, Edwin Rajotte, Joseph Russo,

Excused: Jeff Brodersen, J Brooke, Beth Chotkowski, Marisa Giarnella, Tara Gustafson, David Hopkins, John Kennedy, Scott Loveland, Carolyn Lyle, Steve Norcia, Dave Pettinicchi, Sally Pritchard, Michael Russo

Non-Voting Affiliates: Doug McCracken

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: \$250.00 Apr 14, Donations Received: Cornfield Point

In Kind Donations: \$0

Expenses: \$50 May 4, Connecticut Annual Report

Current OSCRC Inc. balance as of May 5, 2026 is \$17,719.27.

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
 - 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.
 - In a March meeting with OSCRC, the Town requested that OSCRC hold off on any grant applications until after this project is completed.
2. Chalker Beach Related Issues Update
 - Whole Foods – Whole foods has agreed to downsized project scope to meet previous P&Z concerns and conditions. However, the developer is still assessing whether this makes sense for

them to move forward with the project. If so, design would move forward with application to P&Z in late 2026.

- 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).
 - Fenwood Seawall Repair – State has obtained 80% Federal/20% State funding for construction in 2028.
 5. OSCRC Project Priority Tracking (Jay Costello)
 - Project tracker spreadsheet – No change since March 2026.
 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](#).
 - SRC Grant Workshop (03/31/26) - Attended by Terrance McGrath, Gary Albanese and Jay Costello. A Funding Fact Sheet of available programs from this work shop will be distributed to Board members.
 - Environmental Protection Network – This non-profit group provides pro bono assistance with fund raising strategies, organizational development and capacity building which could be helpful for OSCRC development. Contact person is Michelle Sophia Peedin; <michelle.peedin@environmentalprotectionnetwork.org>
 - Water Resources Development Act – 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. No update.
 - Recent OSCRC Funding Activity
 - Town of Old Saybrook Collaboration - OSCRC members met on March 11 with Chris Costa to discuss opportunities to work together on shared interests. At this meeting, OSCRC provided our project tracking list with priorities. Some projects were discussed, with the Town indicating that due to likely environmental opposition and potential costs with limited reward, the South Cove dredging project was essentially dead from the Town’s perspective. Also, the Town discouraged OSCRC from filing project specific grant applications as the Town viewed this as potential competition for the Town’s priorities. The Town did offer to cooperate on drainage improvements in conjunction with their MS4 program and agreed to have the DPW director look into this. So far, no known further action by the Town. Joe Russo to follow with Chris Costa at the Town.
 - Applications – None pending/None filed this month.
 - Upcoming Funding Programs

- 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
 - Solar Farm (Carolyn Lyle) – A solar farm is planned for Old Saybrook. Questions exist about notifications of the project to neighboring residents and town officials prior to approval by CT Siting Council. No update.
 - Drainage (Doug McCracken) – Town is considering evaluation of association drainage issues by the DPW under their MS4 program. Benefit is unclear and needs follow-up. No update.
- 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.
 - 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. No update.
- 8. FEMA Disaster Declaration Damages (Terence McGrath) – Chief William Onofrio is looking to fund a townwide disaster preparation/relief study that will meet FEMA needs, but this likely will only cover public or municipal sandy (not rocky coastline) beach front; no private associations would be included, only those that are quasi-municipal. In the meantime, member associations should look to coordinate any up -to-date beach surveys with the various data sources in order to be eligible for FEMA funding.
- 9. Old Saybrook Land Trust (Gary Jacobsen) – Next meeting is May 16th.
- 10. Town of Old Saybrook News – News, notifications, meeting minutes and upcoming agendas available on Town website (www.oldsaybrookct.gov).
 - Saybrook Point Land Swap – The public referendum held on March 31 voted in favor of the Saybrook Point land swap. Swap agreement details being negotiated.
 - 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 movement at State or local levels.
 - 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 movement at State or local levels.
 - Town Resiliency Fund – There is \$150,000 appropriated to the Town of Old Saybrook’s resiliency fund. The Town sees this as their source of matching funds, but OSCRC should still consider specific projects/needs for formal request for funding and make a pitch at the end of each fiscal year.
- 11. Chamber of Commerce (Jamie Greacen) – JG will continue to attend and update as appropriate.
- 12. OSCRC Quarterly Newsletter (Jamie Greacen) – The July 2026 draft is initiated. JG looking for articles and/or ideas. Potentially could interview Chalker Beach members to update on Marsh & beach

nourishment studies. 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 update.

14. My Coast Connecticut Snap & Share Program – An on-line site has been established to collect site-specific data and evidence of storms, flooding, extreme high tides and their respective impacts or damage. Apps (apple or android specific) to upload photos & data for specific events and locations can be found at: mycoast.org/ct.

15. Upcoming Events – None scheduled.

New Business:

1. Westbrook Resilience Activity – It was reported by a member that Grove beach recently spent \$100k on gravel for adding to their beach. There could be possible “regional” connection here for funding applications, especially the Chalker beach nourishment project. There could also be some synergy between Westbrook beach association and OSCRC on other projects, funding or overall goals. Also, there is a Westbrook beach resiliency committee and OSCRC should look into connecting.

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, June 2nd at 6 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.