



# Sauquoit Creek Basin Intermunicipal Commission

c/o Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program  
The Boehlert Center at Union Station  
321 Main Street ■ Utica, NY ■ 13501

Phone: (315) 798-5710  
Fax: (315) 798-5852  
planning@ocgov.net

## MEETING MINUTES

June 15, 2021

4:30 PM

Whitestown Town Offices  
8539 Clark Mills Road  
Whitestown, NY

### Present

Chairperson Dave Glenn (T. of Whitestown)  
Kyle Tritten (V. of Whitesboro)  
Rick Sherman (T. of New Hartford)  
Supervisor Christian (T. of Paris)  
Tom Hughes (V. of New Hartford)  
Stephanie Wurz (C. of Utica)

Kristina Markey (NYS DEC)  
Dan Hayes (NYS DEC)  
Celeste Friend (Utica Council Person)  
Chris Burtch (V. of Oriskany)  
Maggie Reilly (Ramboll)  
Kristin Campbell (HOCCPP Staff)

The meeting was opened at 4:30 pm by Chairperson Dave Glenn. The May 18, 2021 minutes were approved with a motion by Supervisor Christian and a second by Kyle Tritten. Approval of the minutes passed unanimously.

### Whitestown Sauquoit Creek Channel and Floodplain Restoration Capital Project

Maggie Reilly provided a brief update on Project 2 near the CSX Bridge. The June 4<sup>th</sup> press conference organized at the Whitestown Community Center organized by NYS DOT and OGS was very well attended. This event was a ceremonial ground breaking of Project 2. A preconstruction meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, June 16<sup>th</sup>, with the contactor CCI Company, Ramboll and Town of Whitestown. The flood bench will be constructed first then the culvert and the final part of connecting the project to the creek. Plantings will be installed in the spring 2022.

Project 3 for the three benches behind Commercial Drive is in the permitting and design phase. There are 7 potentially impacted property owners identified during the project planning that are being contacted early in the process so not to delay construction/funding later in the project. There are 3 major landowners and 4 smaller properties involved. Depending on how agreeable the landowners are to involvement in the project, the design will be altered to address any property owner concerns.

Project 1 repairs at Dunham Manor Park are being reviewed by NYS DEC and DHSES. DEC likes the preliminary design and working on the permitting changes to the project since the originally permitted work has changed due to flood repairs and resiliency design updates.

Maggie reported there is a camera now at Dunham Manor Park so water levels can be observed during weather events. The camera can be seen on YouTube. Monday's rainfall was cautiously watched and the bench functioned as designed even without the needed repairs. Everyone would feel more confident if the repairs and upgrades were completed so the benches can be fully function during a future heavy rain event.

The Town of Whitestown submitted a Bridge NY Grant for the Main Street Bridge replacement and the NYS DOT submitted for FEMA BRIC funds to replace the Oriskany Boulevard Bridge. Chairperson Glen said the completed Main Street storm sewer project has been effective in carrying water during recent rain events. There is a road paving project this summer that will complete the entire proposed project.

### **Sediment and Debris Management Plan**

The group discussed scheduling the date of the presentation of the Sediment and Debris Management Plan. The proposed date is at the next regular meeting of the Commission on July 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm at the Whitestown Community Center on Westmoreland Road. For those who prefer, a WebEx link will be available to remotely attend the presentation.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Kristin reported the balance in the Commission's bank account is \$68,451.09. Upon a motion by Rick Sherman and a second by Kyle Tritten, the motion passed to accept the Treasurer's report. Members will discuss the 2021 budget and member contributions at the August meeting.

### **Other Business**

Kristin reported on some funding opportunities for the Commission members in the 2021 NYS CFA.

#### *Modeling and Design*

Members discussed requesting funds for modeling and conceptual engineering design at multiple locations upstream of the Dunham Manor Park to expand the original Sauquoit Creek Channel and Flood Plain Restoration Project. The proposed sites are Pietryka Park and South of Main Street Bridge (Village of NY Mills), Brookline Drive (City of Utica), Rte. 8/Victoria Drive (Town of New Hartford/Utica) and Hand Place (Town of New Hartford). These locations will be studied and a conceptual design completed that continues the work the SBIC has supported downstream in Whitestown. By working our way upstream in a coordinated effort, the benefits of cooperation will lead to the reduction in flooding and create a more resilient watershed.

Grants of up to \$30,000 per site are available for streambank stabilization projects and applicants may apply for a maximum of five nonpoint source-planning reports per round. The grant requires a local match of 10% that will come from SCBIC member's contributions and a potential grant from the Oneida County Flood Mitigation Grant Program. The proposed cost is \$370,000 to model the five sites and conceptual design. The proposed match from the Commission is \$37,500 and to apply to the Oneida County for Flood Mitigation Funds for up to \$187,500. Upon a motion by Rick Sherman and a second by Kyle Tritten, the motion passed to request Oneida County on behalf of the SCBIC for funding in the NYS CFA for \$150,000.

### *MS4 Mapping*

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is accepting proposals for communities work on comprehensive inventories of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4). The Herkimer Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program (HOCCPP) through their GIS staff has an existing mapping protocol created for regulated communities within the region to insure consistency in mapping and data collection. There was a lengthy discussion about MS4 mapping in the Sauquoit Creek Basin Watershed and how each community collects and reports data collection. HOCCPP has done some limited data collection of storm sewer mapping work in the past with communities on a mapping program to inventory storm sewers and outfalls. The Village of New Hartford explained to members how useful this tool is to their daily work.

### *Member Reports*

Chairperson Glenn requested members discuss any projects and concerns in their representative communities.

### Town of New Hartford

Rick S. reported the trees down in two locations near Wilbur Road and Elm Street have been removed from Sauquoit and Mud creeks.

The Town did not receive funding approval for two grants submitted to NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation in the 2020 grant round but are still interested in the funding. Rick S. said they are reaching out to EFC to review the weaknesses in the application and resubmit.

The Mud Creek detention project on Middlesettlement Road went out to bid and they came in high. Town is looking to reexamine the budget and see if there are places the Town can do some of the work themselves to bring down the costs with in-kind labor.

The Woodbury Detention Pond construction is underway. Work started last fall with replacement of and installation of new pipes and excavation in the spring/summer. Rick reported that there are 20,000 cubic yards of material they need to relocate. There is interest from local farmers and land owners in some of the excavated material. In cooperation with Utica, excavated gravel will be utilized by the City for some of their projects.

There are several other projects the Town is set to start or working on getting future funding. Work is set to start in the fall of 2021 with Roman Road drainage upgrades. There is still discussion with NYS DHSES about the damages to the Rayhill Trail and Highway Garage property. They would like to move this project forward along with sewer line repairs near Hillside Gardens.

### Paris

Supervisor Christian reported that there is a large solar project on Oneida Street proposed near the Sauquoit Creek. The applicant will need a use variance as solar is not an approved activity in the Town. The SCBIC will be an interested agency when letters go out for SEQR coordination.

Also there are 3 new wells being constructed in the Town at the cost of \$5 million. Kristin mentioned that her office has funds to write a source water protection plan for the Town next year if they are interested.

### Oriskany Creek

Chairperson Glenn reported some updates on the Oriskany Creek. He had reached out to the State to send NYS DOT crews to locate a tree down in the creek on Rte. 69. The tree is still there.

Chris Burtch from the Village of Oriskany was introduced by Chairperson Glenn and will be attending Commission meetings to get an understanding of how the group works as the Oriskany Watershed looks to organize. Kristin followed up to explain her office is starting work on a 9E watershed plan in the Oriskany Watershed. HOCCPP is preparing educational materials and maps that include known problem areas and solutions from 2 existing reports- MMI Study of Oriskany Creek and Mohawk River Watershed Study. Staff will be reaching out to communities in the watershed with a survey form and maps to gather information about problem locations and ideas for implementation.

The next meeting date is July 20, 2021 and will be held in person at the Whitestown Community Center at 4:30.