

Moodna Creek Watershed Intermunicipal Council

c/o Orange County Water Authority

124 Main Street, Goshen, New York 10924

(845) 615-3868

http://waterauthority.orangecountygov.com/moodna_council.html



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 29, 2020

Zoom Meeting

Meeting began at 10:10 AM.

1. Call to order

Attending:

Voting Members and Alternates: Kelly Morris, Simon Gruber, Jay Beaumont, Johanna Kiernan, Brendan Coyne

Non-Governmental Members: Andy Lawrence, Noel Arnold, Frank Palermo,

Guests: Emily Vail, Sue Anne Vogelsberg, Jackie Hernandez, Tracy Schuh, Scott Cupett, Kate Ahmadi, Ward Brower, Joe Coronoa, Andrew Giacomazza, Ed Butler, Larry Rosini, Bill Schuster, Kate Terlizzi, Thomas Bregman, Shanna Abeles, Ed Sims, Frank Palermo

2. Council Business:

- Approval of Minutes
Corrections noted by Jay.
- Resignation of Kelly Morris as Second Vice Chair due to conflict with OC Water Authority.
Kelly to remain voting representative for the OC Water Authority to the MCWIC. Position of Second Vice Chair to be discussed at January 2021 meeting.
- Correspondence
Clovewood correspondence to the Village of South Blooming Grove on hold due to change of Board. SueAnne confirmed that this hold was mentioned at the last Board meeting and will advise Council of any updates.
Johanna sent letter to Johnny Belfort inviting him to the Council as representative from Village of South Blooming Grove and copied the VSB Board Members. No response received. SueAnne gave her Moodna Creek correspondence to Johnny.

Executive Committee

Town of Blooming Grove

Town of Chester

Village of Chester

Town of Cornwall

Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson

Town of Goshen

Town of Hamptonburgh

Town of Monroe

Town of Montgomery

Town of New Windsor

Village of South Blooming Grove

Town of Warwick

Village of Washingtonville

Town of Woodbury

Village of Woodbury

Orange County Water Authority

Non-Municipal Members

Black Rock Fish & Game Club

Black Rock Forest Consortium

Concerned Citizens for the Hudson Valley

Friends of Walton Lake

New York Natural History Council

NY/NJ Trail Conference

Orange County Land Trust

Orange County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

Palisades Interstate Park Commission

Preservation Collective

John Mickelson

Kate Ahmadi

Ed Butler



3. Science and Outreach Committee report

a) Kiosks – status report -- Jay Beaumont

Two kiosks completed at Earl Reservoir in Town and Village of Woodbury and the South Blooming Grove Merriewold Lake kiosk. Both Eagle Scouts have received their awards because of these projects. Merriewold Lake kiosk dedication to be held in spring. Jay thanked Brendan for introducing him to the Scouts in Cornwall-on-the-Hudson. He is working through the process of raising money and developing a plan for building the kiosk; probably down by the river waterfront. Jay is working on the fourth kiosk in Town of Goshen with the Birch School, a charter school in New Windsor. Jay had not yet heard back from Neil Halleran. Jay has 4 more sets of panels. Two sets for Birch School and two ready to go. We have funds from Orange County Soil and Water Conservation District Environmental Benefit Fund. Jay is using that money to print the panels and 100 dollars that was set aside for the Council kiosk project. Need to find more Scouts or youth groups.

Kate contacted Palisades Interstate Park Commission for a kiosk at Schunmunk Mountain. Jay send photos and information on how kiosk are done to Kate's contact there.

Jay had started to get information for a kiosk on Native American Indian history in the area. Also use of water power in the Moodna Creek Watershed—mills, saw mills, grist mills. There are areas where only the dam is left but at one time there were structures there that used that water power for the local economy.

b) 10th anniversary celebration

Postponed to spring due to Covid. Jackie spoke about Black Rock, and Covid issues. Jay requested deposit to be returned to the Council. Simon said hopefully Bill can do presentation at spring event but will do it today.

Facebook page set up for Educational Forum. (Jackie, Johanna, Tracy, Kelly as administrators.)

c) Next Virtual Committee meeting date—November 13th at 10:30 am

4. Brown's Pond dam removal update – Simon Gruber

Chris Eakis, owner of dam, received wetland permit from DEC. The permit was required because his plan to drain the pond to inspect the back of the dam. Draining the pond will affect the wetlands surrounding the pond. Chris and Simon were there on Saturday raising the gate that lets water out. Gate went partially up. Pond is in the process of draining. Scott Cupett said pond level down considerably.

When permit arrived, there was a provision that pond can not be refilled until repair done. The general consensus pond will not stay dry in big storms, gate does not rise sufficiently to keep pond drained. It is a public safety issue that



But as it is public safety issue as well as a fish passage restoration project that makes it more likely that DEC will approve the money. That decision will be made at the Commissioner's level. State Comptroller has to sign off also.

Jay clarified that this pond is at the intersection of Rt. 207 and Rt. 208. Not Brown's Pond by Rt. 207 and Rt. 300. That one is called Silver Stream and feeds into Silver Stream Reservoir.

5. Mill Street Bank—erosion of embankment—Simon Gruber

Jay clarified that this is in the Town of Cornwall. Simon explained that it is a steep embankment of dirt that is very visible where the Moodna crosses under Rt. 32 by a county road Mill Street. Now that Kelly's position has been clarified the letter to County Executive can be completed. We are requesting help from the County as it is a County Road. We have the support of Councilperson Scott and Cornwall Mayor Randazzo.

Kevin Sumner of OC Water District has been helpful. We need to work together to get grant money. To stabilize slope may cost 10 million.

6. Comments/announcements for attendees

Jay asked Tracy to talk about Face Book page. Tracy noted that Jackie set it up and set up administrators. Tracy posted information about our 10th Anniversary and 1,000 plus people have seen the posting! We should post once a month and raise awareness that we are protecting the Moodna. It is another outreach opportunity. Kelly thanked Tracy, Johanna and Jackie. Johanna asked if Emily could post information on the groups with which she is involved. Emily will do post Hudson digest article from the newsletter and add the link.

Emily updated us on the Hudson River Watershed Alliance. The virtual annual conference is being held this week. Monday's panel discussion was Work on Waterdsheds During Covid 19. It was recorded and posted on youtube. Wednesday was Communications Training and today at 1 PM is Collaborating on Water Quality. This was on clarifying goals, methodology and partnerships. Friday is Building Shared Leadership. All are welcome to join. Contact Emily@hudsonwatershed.org Copies of digest are available after the conference. 37 different organizations are presented. Digest article on MCWIC to be in newsletter.

6. Presentation by Bill Schuster "Enhancing Connectivity in Orange County".

Presentation is recorded and will be made available on line.

Simon spoke about Black Rock Forest and MCWIC working together for many years.

Tom Bregman, Hudson Highlands Museum, we would like participate in this for increasing education programs for the constituents that we serve.

Next Science and Outreach Committee meeting is Friday, November 13, 2020 10:30 AM.

Next Moodna Council Meeting is Thursday, January 28, 2021 10:00 AM.

Meeting ended 11:25 AM.