

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



MEETING MINUTES

10:10am Thursday January 31, 2019

Village Hall, Village of Woodbury

Meeting began at 10:10 am

Attending:

Voting Members and Alternates: Johanna Kiernan, Simon Gruber, Brendan Coyne, Kenneth Newbold, Noel Arnold, Jay Beaumont, Jim Mullany, Neil Crouse, Kelly Morris, Ed Sims

Non-Governmental Members: Matt Brady, Sona Mason, Tracy Schuh

Guests: Dominick Greene, Jerry Boss

Council Business:

- **Vote on meeting minutes from October:** J. Mullany made motion to approve, N. Crouse seconded, all in favor
- **Election of officers:** All officers are willing to serve another year. J. Beaumont asked if there were any nominations from the floor; no responses. S. Gruber made motion to re-elect current officers, N. Arnold seconded, all in favor
- **Request by Concerned Citizens of Hudson Valley to join MCWIC:** motion in support by K. Newbold, seconded by B. Coyne, all in favor

Science and Outreach Committee report:

- **Stream gages, funded by a NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary grant:** At the January 3rd meeting at Moffat Library, those present expressed enthusiasm for making stream gage data accessible to the public in real time. The conclusion of the meeting was that the new stream gages should measure the height and have telemetry in order to provide flood warnings to community members, especially those living, working, or owning property in flood-prone areas. Orange County Emergency Management has agreed to explore options for hosting the real-time data and coordinating a reverse-911 system. Exact locations are being explored by OCWA, OCWA's contractor, and local officials. Although the grant application to the DEC's Hudson River Estuary Program focused primarily on assessing water quality, the consensus from the meeting is that a flood warning system would be a better use of the grant funds and that a volunteer monitoring system would be a more efficient and cost-effective method for gathering water quality data. Still to be decided is how the telemetry will be funded on an

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
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
Friends of Walton Lake



annual basis.

- **Dams:** Concern was expressed as many present regarding dam management, especially the release of water from dams in advance of a significant rain event. It was stated that there is no current state law that mandates how private dam owners manage dams, but that the state can sue if there is damage done. It was questioned whether the County could coordinate dam releases, but D. Green noted that the County would not have the ability to mandate that private dam owners to release water from their dams. It was noted that dam releases are not only important for flood management but also for the integrity of the dam's structure. B. Coyne suggested that the Council officers and D. Greene organize a meeting with NYSDEC to discuss these concerns and that Council members be invited.
- **Kiosks:** J. Beaumont has two kiosks underway: the first will be installed at Earl Reservoir Park in Woodbury, the second one will likely be located in South Blooming Grove at the small park at Merriwold Lake. He has been working with a sign company, Apple Valley, which was the lowest bidder to respond when OCWA solicited quotes.
- **Outreach events:** Several ideas have been proposed for outreach and educational events for 2019, including: hosting an educational workshop focusing on stormwater management, engaging youth about water quality issues, a dinner event with a speaker, a paddle on Walton Lake, and a late Spring hike at Fitzgerald Falls (organized by the NY/NJ Trail Conference and featuring the Watershed Council).
- The next Science and Outreach meeting is February 5th in Goshen.

Presentation: George Schuler, The Nature Conservancy

"Water Risk and You: How Understanding the Size and Nature of Water Risks Help Protect Your Water Reserve" (see Council webpage for presentation)

The presentation and subsequent discussion led to the decision that the Council should write a letter to DEC requesting more attention be given to an array of water management concerns, including interbasin transfers, groundwater withdrawals, reservoir watershed protection, dam management, and other issues.

Comments and Announcements from attendees:

J. Kiernan suggested holding meetings in towns or villages that are being affected by flooding or water quality issues since the Council will be changing locations due to renovations at Woodbury Village Hall. She proposed the idea of hosting next meeting in Washingtonville; K. Morris will check to see if there is a space available there for the April meeting.

Update of Operating Procedures:

Two main issues to address within the Operating Procedures are how to address usage of dues and how to address members that have been inactive or not paid due (the latter applying to municipal members only). J. Mullany suggested that members that don't pay their dues, then-



their membership would be suspended and they would no longer be a voting member. Also suspended members are no longer needed to make quorum if they don't show up to meetings. Another suggested idea was that the annual dues letter include a notice stating that failure to attend Council meetings and pay dues will result in revocation of rights until that municipality is back in good standing. B. Coyne and K. Morris will work on revising the Operating Procedures and will this will be discussed again at the April meeting.

Adjourn: J. Mullany made motion to adjourn, N. Arnold seconded, all in favor

Next meeting: April 25th, 2019

Meeting adjourned at 12:00