

Northern Oneida County Council of Governments (NOCCOG)
2023 Annual Meeting
MINUTES
October 27, 2023
Woods Valley Ski Area, Westernville, NY

The 40th annual meeting of the Northern Oneida County Council of Governments was held on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at the Woods Valley Ski Area in Westernville. Following the social hour, welcome remarks and introductions were given by NOCCOG Municipal Projects Coordinator, John Healt. Of the more than 90 that attended, John H. recognized NYS Assemblymember Ken Blankenbush and Dana Onley, a representative from NYS Assemblymember Marianne Buttonchon's office. In attendance were Oneida County Legislators Steve DiMaggio and Steve Boucher. NYS Tug Hill Commission Chair, Jan Bogdanowicz was joined by Tug Hill Commissioner, and former NOCCOG Municipal Advisor, Gerry Ritter, Tug Hill Commission Executive Director, Katie Malinowski and Associate Director of Community and Regional Projects for the Tug Hill Commission, Jennifer Harvill. John H. also recognized Amanda Whalen, Clean Energy Community Coordinator with MVEDD, NOCCOG Associate Municipal Advisor Lisa Bellinger and NOCCOG GPS Mappers, Mike Thompson, Jacob Healt and Mark Clark.

After the welcome and introductions, the Pledge of Allegiance and a blessing was given by NOCCOG Executive Board Director, Tom McDonald.

At 7:00 pm, NOCCOG Chair Bob Sauer called the 2023 annual meeting to order and expressed his appreciation for all of those in attendance. He was thankful for continued support from the NOCCOG municipalities, reiterating it's the support of the membership that allows NOCCOG to continue to be a reliable resource to our communities. He acknowledged the invaluable support of the Tug Hill Commission, and thanked Oneida County for their financial support, which continued in 2023.

Chairman's Report: Chair Sauer's annual report outlined various projects, such as NOCCOG's GPS Mapping Program and the first recipients of the newly initiated scholarship program. Chair Sauer reported NOCCOG partnered with the Tug Hill Commission to help bring a handful of high school students to the annual local government conference. Chair Sauer touched upon the broadband expansion in northern Oneida County and the role that NOCCOG played in the broadband study prior to any physical broadband construction. He mentioned the disbanding of the Local Government Education Committee, but also the renewed connection with the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District. Chair Sauer reported that NOCCOG worked to continue to bring trainings and workshops to the membership, most recently a Knowledge Transfer webinar and a Town Board / Highway Budget workshop with Laird Petrie. It was mentioned the executive committee is always working to offer important training to NOCCOG municipalities as well as our neighboring towns and villages. Mr. Sauer also recognized the importance of the assistance received from the Tug Hill Commission as well as the hard work and dedication from the Associate Municipal Advisors, Lisa Bellinger and Joe Rowlands. Chair Sauer ended his report with possibilities of new projects or expansions of current programs.

Minutes: Minutes from the 2022 annual meeting were reviewed and presented for approval. Motion made by Jeannie Dano, Ava, to accept the minutes. Seconded by Diane Butler, Western. All in favor. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Fiscal Officer, Betsy Mack, gave the financial report. Fiscal Officer Mack reviewed the proposed 2024 budget and recommended approval as presented. Motion made by Tom Furlong, Holland Patent, to accept the 2024 budget as presented. Seconded by Marty Flint, Remsen. All in favor. Motion carried.

Election of Officers: Nominating Committee member Willard Streiff, Town of Floyd, made a motion to nominate the following slate of officers for 2024:

Robert Sauer, Camden - Chairman
John Doiron, Ava - Vice Chairman
Betsy Mack, Trenton - Fiscal Officer
Tom McDonald, Remsen - Director
Lawrence Meirek, Western – Director

Supervisor Streiff asked for further nominations from the floor. There being none, the nominating process was closed, the motion to nominate was seconded by Diane Butler, Western. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jeannie Dano, Ava, made a motion that a single ballot be cast for the slate and accept the nominations. Seconded by Steve Hunter, Western. All in favor. Motion carried.

The new terms will commence January 1, 2024.

Program: James J. Genovese II, Commissioner, Oneida County Department of Planning & Herkimer-Oneida Counties Comprehensive Planning Program, presented on the resources, assets, and assistance the county planning office can offer Oneida County municipalities.

There being no further business, the annual meeting of NOCCOG concluded and was adjourned at 8:15 pm. Motion to adjourn was made by Mark Williams, Steuben, and seconded by Jeannie Dano, Ava.

Respectfully submitted,
John Healt, Municipal Projects Coordinator
Northern Oneida County Council of Governments