

MINUTES OF 11/18/20 MEETING OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
HELD VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Council Representatives: Mary Bylone, Colchester; Mark Nickerson, East Lyme; Charles Grant, Franklin; Todd Babbitt, Griswold; Keith Hedrick, City of Groton; Timothy Sharkey, Borough of Jewett City; Fred Allyn, III, Ledyard; Tom Sparkman, Lisbon; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Michael Passero, New London; Mike Uργο, North Stonington; Cheryl Blanchard, Sprague; Jeff Callahan, Borough of Stonington; Danielle Chesebrough, Town of Stonington; Rob Brule, Waterford. Council Alternates: John Burt, Town of Groton; John Salomone, Norwich. Tribal Liaison: Rodney Butler, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. Military Liaison: Captain Todd Moore, Adam Wright, U.S. Naval SUBASE; CDR David Milne, USCGA. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan, Wendy Leclair. Other: Deborah Monahan, TVCCA; Mike Caplet, DEMHS; Mike Carroll, Al Fritsche, Cherise Perkins, SEAT; Grayson Wright, CTDOT; Erik Shortell, FHWA; Brianna DeVivo, Senator Murphy's office; Ellen Graham, Senator Blumenthal's office; Ayanti Grant, Congressman Courtney's office; Nancy Cowser, seCTer; Wendy Bury, SE CT Cultural Coalition; Randy Collins, CCM; Catherine Young, CAA; Theresa Jackman, Eversource; Patrick McCormack, Uncas Health District; Steve Mansfield, Ledge Light Health District; Jim Bellano, ECTD; Philip Johnson, WRTD; Sana Shah, Erin Sheehan, CT Voices for Children; Dominick Celtruda; Greg Berube.

1. Call to Order: Vice Chairman Allyn agreed to chair the meeting in Chairman Nickerson's absence, who would join the meeting in progress. He opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3. Act on Minutes of 10/21/20:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 10/21/20 (Hedrick, Callahan). So voted unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report:

MOTION: To approve the November Treasurer's Report (Grant, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

5. Communications: None.

The Vice Chairman then noted he would add the item Guest Speakers back onto this agenda, and introduced Sana Shah from the CT Voices for Children.

6. Guest Speaker: Sana Shah, CT Voices for Children

Ms. Shah, Chief of Staff at CT Voices for Children, introduced herself and Erin Sheehan, Legislative and Data Analyst. She provided a Power Point presentation that outlined the work of her agency. Ms. Sheehan presented the agency's key issues for this legislative session. These recommendations include formation of a statewide COVID-19 Task Force, land use regulation reform, rescue early child care, and advocacy for a fair tax system.

The Vice Chairman then called on the two regional health directors present to provide an update on COVID-19 issues.

Mr. Mansfield discussed the status of schools, testing, and enforcement.

Mr. McCormack discussed the increase in the number of cases per day, testing, and the inability of some folks like teachers to get to testing sites before they close for the day.

Mr. Urgo asked how an individual town might become certified to administer tests. Mr. Mansfield said he would look into this.

7. Public Comment:

Ms. Jackman reported that Eversource was contacting municipalities to hold virtual meetings and webinars to assist low income customers with making payments, programs, and energy conservation programs.

8. Committee and Liaison Reports:

A. Executive Committee

1) DEMHS Region 4 Regional Recovery Steering Committee – Update

The Executive Director reported that the Regional Recovery Steering Committee will be meeting tomorrow with the State's consultants to identify areas not represented in the list of persons representing organizations and areas that can discuss the impact of the pandemic on their constituencies. He also said that he expected two additional working groups to be stood up in the next couple of months.

2) JLUS Parking Management Plan - Update

The Executive Director said that the consultant Kimley-Horn has begun work on the SCCOG's third JLUS funded project, to prepare a parking management plan in the City of Groton, in anticipation of the increase in employment at Electric Boat. He said

the staff has met several times with the consultant, and that the consultant has also met with City of Groton staff and with EB officials in two separate meetings. They have begun gathering background data and conducted a field visit, and will soon create a web site for the study which will allow for public access to information being prepared and to provide on input at this study progresses.

B. Legislative Committee/Legislative Update – No report.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives – No report.

D. Military Command Representatives

Captain Moore said that the SUBASE remains in an elevated health protection status due to the increase in local infections.

CDR Milne reported that there have been no reported COVID-19 infections at the Academy in the past three weeks, and that the cadets will soon be returning to their homes for Thanksgiving and will remain there and will continue their academics remotely until early January.

E. Congressional Office Report

Ms. Grant from Congressman Courtney's office reported on FEMA issues, the Impact Aid Bill for school districts sponsored by Congressman Courtney which was approved in the House and now goes before the Senate, and other bills the Congressman is co-sponsoring.

Ms. Graham from Senator Blumenthal's office reported that it is unlikely that the Senate will pass another COVID Relief bill before the end of the year, but does need to approve of a federal budget which could have some COVID relief funding included.

Ms. DeVivo from Senator Murphy's reported on the re-authorization of the FAST Act through a continuing resolution.

F. seCTer

Ms. Cowser updated the SCCOG about seCTer's current activities including working with EDA on 12 projects; their CARES Act funding available for lending; and that they have hired Sheri Cote to be their new economic recovery coordinator.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District

Mr. Bellano reported on the ECTD's regional marketing program.

H. SEAT

Mr. Carroll reported that ridership was down 12% after the reintroduction of fares in October. He said that with the exception of Sunday service which has not been restored, full service all other days is being provided.

I. SCCOG Regional Water Committee – No report.

J. Regional Emergency Planning Team

Mr. Sparkman reminded that the deadline for sending in required MOAs and Resolutions has passed, and urged the nine towns not yet submitting these to SCCOG to do so.

K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

Ms. Monahan reported on free COVID testing being provided by UCFS at two sites; reminded that towns should remember to refer anyone in their community in need of energy assistance or food assistance to TVCCA.

L. SE CT Cultural Coalition

Ms. Bury reported that she is working with 7 municipalities in the region interested in forming cultural districts.

9. Executive Director's Report:

The Executive Director reported that Tighe and Bond has been engaged to provide on-call transportation assistance to the SCCOG; their work will be funded with 2016 PL carryover funds and with LOTCIP administration funding available to the SCCOG.

10. Old Business:

A. COVID-19 Response Discussion

Mr. Sparkman inquired how towns were paying employees who had contacted COVID/ come into contact with someone with COVID/ were awaiting a COVID test and were not coming to work. Ms. Monahan, Mr. Grant, and Ms. Chesebrough all responded how they were dealing with this, including using the 10 sick days that the employer can be reimbursed for under the CARES Act, and providing additional paid time off if needed since the employee is being asked to stay at home.

11. New Business:

A) FY 2018 STIP/TIP Amendments

- 5311T, 0170-XXXX, Section 5311, Various, Section 5311 Project Adjustment to Actual Appr., Admin. & RTAP Program FFY 2020, OTH, 2020, \$118,000.
- 5311T, 0170-XXXX, Section 5311, Various, Section 5311 Project Adjustment to Actual Appr., Admin. & RTAP Program FFY 2021, OTH, 2021, \$118,000.
- STPR, 0052-0093, CT 207, Franklin, Replace Bridge 01547 over Beaver Brook, PD, 2021, \$450,000.
- STPR, 0052-0093, CT 207, Franklin, Replace Bridge 01547 over Beaver Brook, FD, FYI, \$300,000.
- STPR, 0052-0093, CT 207, Franklin, Replace Bridge 01547 over Beaver Brook, ROW, FYI, \$50,000.

MOTION: To approve of the FY 2018 STIP/TIP Amendments (Sparkman, Grant). So voted unanimously

12. Next Meeting:

The Vice Chairman stated that a COVID-19 response call be held in two weeks on December 2nd, and that the next regularly scheduled meeting would be held on December 16th.

13. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:38a.m. (Grant, Uργο). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Hedrick, Secretary