

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Minutes of the December 21, 2022 Meeting of the Southeastern CT Council of Governments

Held at Flander Fish Market, 22 Chesterfield Rd, East Lyme, CT

PRESENT:

Bozrah	Glenn Pianka	Montville	Ron McDaniel
Colchester	-	New London	Michael Passero
East Lyme	Kevin Seery	Norwich	John Salomone
Franklin	Charles Grant	North Stonington	Bob Carlson
Griswold	Dana Bennett	Preston	Sandra Allyn-Gauthier
Jewett City	Tim Sharkey	Salem	Ed Chmielewski
City of Groton	-	Sprague	Cheryl Blanchard
Town of Groton	John Burt	Town of Stonington	Danielle Chesebrough
Lebanon	Kevin Cwikla	Stonington Borough	Jeff Callahan
Ledyard	Fred Allyn, III (Chairman)	Waterford	Rob Brule
Lisbon	Tom Sparkman	Windham	-
Military Liaisons:	US Coast Guard Academy: RADM Kelly New London SUBASE: CAPT Curtin, Steve Sadlowski		
Tribal Affiliates:	Mohegan Tribe: - Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation: Bob Hayward, Rodney Butler		

SCCOG staff: Amanda Kennedy, James Butler, Kate Rattan, Jessica Cobb, Sam Alexander, Nicole Haggerty. SEAT: Mike Carroll, Thalisa Clark, Cherise Simpson. seCTER: Paul Whitescarver, Mark Oefinger. CT DOT: Jennifer Pacacha. Office of Sen. Blumenthal: Ellen Graham. Ledge Light Health District: Jennifer Muggeo.

1. Call to Order: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. The Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3. Act on Minutes of September 21, 2022 Meeting:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 11/16/2022 (Sparkman, Cwikla). Motion passed with one member abstaining (Brule).

4. Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Kennedy noted that the Treasurer's Report now notes requests for payment more than 60 days old and that there are \$125,000 in unpaid DEMHS reimbursements, which have been flagged by DEMHS staff for prioritization.

MOTION: To approve the Treasurer's Report (Sparkman, Grant). Motion passed unanimously.

5. Communications: Ms. Kennedy noted that she had emailed out two communications, one from a Mr. Brian Sauvageau regarding LLHD and the other from the Community Foundation of Eastern CT regarding the Center for Housing Equity and Opportunity.

6. Public Comment: Ms. Jennifer Muggeo introduced herself as the incoming Director of Ledge Light Health District.

7. Committee and Liaison Reports

A) Executive Committee

- i) FY 2021 STIP/TIP Amendments: Ms. Kennedy noted that the Executive Committee recommended approval and that this item would be discussed under new business.
- ii) Proposed FY 2024 Budget: Ms. Kennedy summarized the proposed budget. The final amount of transportation planning revenue is not yet known and may be greater than the \$675,000 included in the budget. The proposed budget includes two new staff working on transportation and municipal services, and includes a 4% raise for current staff due to the recent high levels of inflation. The meeting packet includes a memo to the Executive Committee, who recommended approval.

MOTION: To approve the FY 2023 Budget Amendment (Chmielewski, Sparkman). Motion passed unanimously.

- iii) Proposed FY 24 Work plan: Ms. Kennedy noted that the workplan follows the content of previous years and is primarily for internal use.

MOTION: To approve the FY 24 workplan (Cwikla, Burt). Motion passed unanimously.

- iv) Proposed Amendment to FY 23 Unified Planning Work Program: Ms. Kennedy stated that the amendment includes additional funding allocated to SCCOF for transportation planning.

MOTION: To approve the amendment (Salomone, McDaniel). Motion passed unanimously.

- v) Resolution: Relating to Bank Resolutions. Ms. Kennedy stated that the resolution is an annual housekeeping item necessary for the Treasurer to access bank funds.

MOTION: To adopt the proposed resolution (McDaniel, Allyn-Gauthier). Motion passed unanimously.

- B) Legislative Committee: Mr. Grant stated that SCCOG members met with legislators last week, and that he would be collecting examples where union issues presented regionalism to present to legislators in response to their request for this information.
 - C) Tribal Liaison Representatives: Mr. Butler stated that it has been a busy and positive year for the Tribe. They are working on developing a native American curriculum for Connecticut schools and also working with municipalities on infrastructure investments. Online gaming has been in place for a year and revenue has added to municipal payments.
 - D) Military Command Representatives: Captain Curtin stated that the Nautilus is back at the Submarine Museum and that two important keel-layings recently occurred at Electric Boat. Investments on-base have made the base more resilient: new piers are elevated, and a microgrid enables operations in the event of power disruption. RADM Kelly will retire from service at the close of the spring semester. He stated that the new defense authorization bill should include provisions enabling the Academy to make their facilities more available to the general community.
 - E) Congressional Office Report: Ms. Murphy stated that Congress was finalizing a bill to fund the government after 12/23, and that it should have additional funding for LIHEAP and for service members exposed to toxins.
 - F) seCTer: Mr. Whitescarver stated that he attended a recent economic conference, that filling open positions was a major challenge and asked municipal CEOs to do what they can to enable affordable housing in the region. seCTer held a workshop regarding offshore wind, and is co-convenor of a new Healthcare Regional Sector Partnership. seCTER will need to increase its dues to enable ongoing capacity; they have not gone up since 2007.
 - G) Eastern CT Tourism District: No report.
 - H) SEAT: Ridership continues to be strong. Staff are working on retrofitting their facilities to accommodate electric vehicles.
 - I) Regional Water Committee: No report.
 - J) Regional Emergency Planning Team: No report.
 - K) Regional Human Services Coordinating Council: No report.
 - L) SE CT Cultural Coalition: No report.
9. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Kennedy highlighted several items in the written report: Hiring is in process for SCCOG's new Code Enforcement Services. Initial applications for rural TRIP funds are due January 10th. SCCOG and CT DOT held a briefing on the Commuter Rail and I95 studies

earlier this month, and staff continue to coordinate with CT DOT on specific issues. SCCOG staff met with CT DOT staff regarding STBC funding and projects in development. The Hazard Mitigation Plan is nearly complete. SCCOG staff briefed local planners on the Regional Open Space Plan and is collecting local data from them. SCCOG submitted an application for federal brownfields funding for sites in Windham, Montville, and Waterford. SCCOG will nominate a local “Defense Community Champion” for this new award.

Ms. Kennedy thanked SCCOG staff and noted that while SCCOG lost three staff since last year, it gained three new staff. Ms. Kennedy also thanked Senator Formica for hosting the breakfast.

10. Old Business: None.

11. New Business:

A) FY 2021 STIP/TIP Amendments

FY 2021 STIP-TIP AMENDMENTS - DECEMBER 2022												
Region	FACode	Proj#	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$(000)	Fed\$(000)	Sta\$(000)	Loc\$(000)	Comments
13,15	BRFP	0172-0528	I-95/I-395	DISTRICT 2	UHPC BEAM END REPAIRS ON NHS BRIDGES	CON	2023	22,700	20,430	2,270	0	NEW PROJECT

Motion: To approve the proposed TIP Amendments (Grant, Sparkman). Motion passed unanimously.

B) Nominating Committee Report

Mr. Sparkman presented the nominations for officers in 2024: Danielle Chesebrough (Chair), Rob Brule (Vice Chair), Cheryl Blanchard (Treasurer), Charlie Grant (Secretary), Fred Allyn, John Salomone (Representatives-At-Large).

Motion: To approve the proposed nominations (Cwikla, Chmielewski). Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Chesebrough thanked Mr. Allyn for his service for the last two years.

12. Next Meeting:

The Chairman stated that the next meeting would be January 18, 2023.

13. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn (McDaniel, Grant). The Chairman adjourned the meeting without exception at 9:18 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Kennedy, Executive Director, on behalf of Charlie Grant, Secretary