

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Minutes of the October 19, 202 Meeting of the Southeastern CT Council of Governments

Held at SCCOG, 5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, CT

PRESENT:

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

SCCOG staff: Amanda Kennedy, James Butler, Kate Rattan, Jessica Cobb. Eastern CT Tourism District: Jim Bellano. SEAT: Mike Carroll. seCTER: Paul Whitescarver. CT DOT: Jennifer Pacacha. Eversource: Teresa Jackman, Jaquan Samuels. Office of Sen. Murphy: Erin McBride. Office of Rep. Courtney: Ayanti Grant. TVCCA: Deb Monahan. SE CT Cultural Coalition: Wendy Bury.

1. Call to Order: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:32 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 10/19/2022 (Passero, Pianka). Motion passed with one member abstaining (Brule).

4. Treasurer's Report:

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

5. Communications: SCCOG received a letter from Mark Oefinger, on behalf of the Southeastern CT Housing Alliance, requesting one or two additional municipal CEOS to serve on SECHA's board. Ms. Chesebrough and Ms. Allyn-Gauthier expressed interest in serving on SECHA's board.
6. Public Comment: Ms. Jackman stated that recent news reports warning of load-shedding should have clarified that the concern is for the next winter season, not the current season. Rates are expected to increase but have not been determined yet. Ms. Monahan reminded the SCCOG of utility assistance available through TVCCA (860-425-6681) and stated that the number of applicants is up significantly over this time last year.
7. Guest Speaker: Judge Robert Devlin, Deputy Chief State's Attorney, Office of the Inspector General spoke via Zoom. The Office of the Inspector General was created under the 2021 Police Accountability Law and is charged with responding to deaths in police custody and police-involved shootings. The Office will coordinate responses when an incident occurs. Chairman Allyn asked what the process is for notifying the office; Chiefs of Police notify their local State's Attorneys, who notify the Office. All correctional center deaths are also reported to the Office.
8. 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 2023 Budget Amendment: Ms. Kennedy reviewed proposed changes to the budget, which include increased revenue due to multiple grants received and increased transportation planning funds, as well as expenses related to carrying out the work to be funded by the grants. Chairman Allyn noted that the budget assumes continued contributions to the Reserve Fund.

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

- iii) Proposed Amendments to SCCOG Bylaws: Ms. Kennedy review the proposed changes and noted that this was ready for a vote.

MOTION: To approve the proposed bylaws amendments (Sparkman, Passero). Motion passed unanimously.

- iv) Resolution: Safety Performance Measures. Ms. Kennedy reported that the SCCOG must adopt performance targets every year and that the Executive Committee

recommended endorsing the measures developed by CT DOT, as it has done in previous years.

MOTION: To adopt the proposed safety performance measure targets (Cwikla, Grant). Motion passed unanimously.

- v) Resolution: DEMHS FY 2021 EMPG Hazmat Grant. Ms. Kennedy stated that the resolution is required for SCCOG, as fiduciary for DEMHS Region 4, to receive this funding.

MOTION: To adopt the resolution authorizing the SCCOG Executive Director to execute grant paperwork for the FY 2021 EMPG Hazmat grant (Allyn-Gauthier, Cwikla). Motion passed unanimously.

- B) Legislative Committee: Mr. Grant reviewed the proposed legislative agenda. A member asked if the Shared Services items would require legislative action. Mr. Passero commented that they would require modification of the Municipal Employee Relations Act (MERA). Ms. Kennedy commented that this a high-priority issue for other COGs as well.

Motion: To adopt the Legislative Agenda as presented (Passero, Sparkman). Motion passed unanimously.

- C) Tribal Liaison Representatives: Mr. Hayward reminded the Board of the upcoming Holiday Party on December 6th at the Grand Pequot Hotel at Foxwoods.
- D) Military Command Representatives: Captain Curtin announced a ribbon-cutting on November 23 celebrating the new Pier 32 and the recent and impending return of two submarines to home port.
- E) Congressional Office Report: Ms. McBride stated that Senator Murphy has been working to secure additional funding for children's mental health care and that Congressionally Directed Spending projects would soon be finalized. Ms. Grant announced she would continue in her position for another two years.
- F) seCTer: seCTer held its annual meeting last week. The State is moving forward with announcing the head of a coordinated off-shore wind industry office. Mr. Whitescarver met with representatives of several rural towns in SCCOG and NECCOG regarding potential assistance. Information on the new seCTer RISE loan program will be available soon. The CEDS is still in process. Mr. Whitescarver reminded members of funding available through the Community Investment Fund to municipalities that qualify (public investment communities or alliance districts). seCTer can apply on behalf of an eligible municipality.
- G) Eastern CT Tourism District: Mr. Bellano stated that the District will attend several trade shows. Info regarding regional partnership grants will be available soon. The full board meets quarterly (currently remote) and there are some vacancies on the board. The 41-town region is now split into three sub-areas: Mystic Country, Scenic Northeast, and

Greater Norwich/New London. The District is still awaiting first quarter funding from the State.

H) SEAT: Ridership is strong. Free fares may be extended further.

I) Regional Water Committee: No report.

J) Regional Emergency Planning Team: No report.

K) Regional Human Services Coordinating Council: Ms. Monahan reported that the RHSCC met in October and will reconvene in December to draft a legislative agenda.

L) SE CT Cultural Coalition: Ms. Bury reminded members of their upcoming THRIVE event on December 6th, which will feature speakers discussing how municipalities can/do support the local creative sector. She encouraged participation in the Tourism District as there is room to influence how the region is marketed.

9. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Kennedy highlighted several items in the Report.

SCCOG received word from CT OPM that its application for RPIP funding to stand up Code Enforcement Services has been approved, and staff met with participating municipalities to work out additional details.

Justin LaFountain has given notice that his last day with SCCOG will be November 17th. Ms. Kennedy will begin the hiring process to fill this position and the Code Enforcement positions.

SCCOG staff was part of a recent meeting with OPM to begin to coordinate commissioner training required in 2023.

Three Corridor Studies are underway, in East Lyme, New London, and Norwich.

CT DOT is managing a project to determine improvements to I-95 east of New Haven, has been conducting public outreach, and will be asking to brief SCCOG in the next few months.

Chairman Allyn asked for a motion to approve adding an item to the agenda to stand up a nominating committee.

Motion: To add an item to the agenda regarding a SCCOG nominating Committee (Cwikla, Grant). Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To activate a nominating committee for the purpose of nominating officers for 2023 (Cwikla, Allyn-Gauthier). Motion passed unanimously.

10. Old Business: None.

11. New Business:

A) FY 2021 STIP/TIP Amendments

<u>Region</u>	<u>FACode</u>	<u>Proj#</u>	<u>Rte/Sys</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Phase</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Tot\$ (000)</u>	<u>Fed\$ (000)</u>	<u>Sta\$ (000)</u>	<u>Loc\$ (000)</u>	<u>Comments</u>
10,11,13	STPA	0172-0525	VARIOUS	DISTRICT 2	REPLACE TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS	PD	2023	645	645	0	0	NEW PROJECT
10,11,13	STPA	0172-0525	VARIOUS	DISTRICT 2	REPLACE TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS	FD	2024	554	554	0	0	NEW PROJECT
10,11,13	STPA	0172-0525	VARIOUS	DISTRICT 2	REPLACE TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS	ROW	2024	150	150	0	0	NEW PROJECT
13	STPR	0052-0094	ROUTE 32	FRANKLIN	REPLACE BR 00935 o/ NEW ENGLAND CENTRAL RAILROAD	PD	2023	1,060	848	212	0	NEW PROJECT
13	STPR	0052-0094	ROUTE 32	FRANKLIN	REPLACE BR 00935 o/ NEW ENGLAND CENTRAL RAILROAD	FD	2024	778	622	156	0	NEW PROJECT
13	BRFP	0052-0094	ROUTE 32	FRANKLIN	REPLACE BR 00935 o/ NEW ENGLAND CENTRAL RAILROAD	CON	FY1	15,700	12,560	3,140	0	NEW PROJECT
10,11,13	STPA	0172-0524	VARIOUS	DISTRICT 2	REPLACE HIGHWAY ILLUMINATION AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS	PD	2023	360	288	72	0	NEW PROJECT
10,11,13	STPA	0172-0524	VARIOUS	DISTRICT 2	REPLACE HIGHWAY ILLUMINATION AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS	FD	2023	500	400	100	0	NEW PROJECT

Motion: To approve the proposed TIP Amendments (Sparkman, Allyn-Gauthier). Motion passed unanimously.

12. Next Meeting:

The Chairman stated that the next meeting would be December 21, 2022, most likely at Flanders Fish Market.

13. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn (Grant, Cwikla). The Chairman adjourned the meeting without exception at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Kennedy, Executive Director, on behalf of Cheryl Blanchard, Secretary