

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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DRAFT Minutes of the 7/20/22 Meeting of the Southeastern CT Council of Governments

Held at SCCOG, 5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, CT

PRESENT:

Bozrah	-	Montville	Ron McDaniel
Colchester	-	New London	Michael Passero
East Lyme	-	Norwich	John Salomone
Franklin	Charles Grant	North Stonington	Bob Carlson
Griswold	Dana Bennett	Preston	Sandra Gauthier
Jewett City	Tim Sharkey	Salem	Ed Chmielewski
City of Groton	-	Sprague	-
Town of Groton	-	Town of Stonington	Danielle Chesebrough
Lebanon	Kevin Cwikla	Stonington Borough	Jeff Callahan
Ledyard	Fred Allyn, III (Chairman)	Waterford	Rob Brule
Lisbon	-	Windham	-
Military Liaisons:	US Coast Guard Academy: LCDR Samuel Andriessen New London SUBASE: Steve Sadlowski		
Tribal Affiliates:	Mohegan Tribe: Chuck Bunnell Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation: -		

SCCOG staff: Amanda Kennedy, James Butler. SEAT: Mike Carroll, Cherise Simpson, Thailisa Clark; seCTER: Paul Whitescarver. Eversource: Teresa Jackman; Office of Sen. Blumenthal: Ellen Graham. CT Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Team: Commissioner Mark Boughton, Tayler Thorpe.

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. The Executive Director asked that an item be added to the agenda under New Business.

MOTION: to add consideration of Resolution 22-1 to the agenda under New Business (Cwikla, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

3. Act on Minutes of 6/22:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 6/15/22 (Sparkman, Cwikla). So voted unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report:

MOTION: To approve the June Treasurer's Report (Sparkman, Cwikla). The Chairman noted that outstanding requisitions for REPT have continued. The Executive Director reported that staff was in touch with DEMHS to encourage more timely payments.

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Communications: None.

6. Public Comment: Teresa Jackman noted that high temperatures were coming and consumers were asked to run air conditioning only when necessary.

7. Guest Speaker: Commissioner Mark Boughton, BIL Team

Agenda item delayed to allow Mr. Boughton to arrive.

8. Committee and Liaison Reports

A) Executive Committee

- i) 2022 LOTCIP Solicitation (to be taken up under Item 12A, New Business).
- ii) FY 2021 STIP/TIP Amendments (to be taken up under Item 12A, New Business).
- iii) BIL/IIJA Funding- The Executive Director reported that staff was reaching out to all SCCOG member municipalities to identify projects for a multijurisdictional or joint application to the Safe Streets for All grant program.
- iv) Personnel Update- The Executive Director reported on several changes to staff that had occurred. Lee-Ann Gomes, SCCOG's part-time Recovery Coordinator, did not renew her contract. SCCOG staff would provide any future support with existing staff. Liz Crutcher, SCCOG's GIS Coordinator, resigned from her position. The SCCOG Executive Director will assess future needs and resources prior to advertising for a new GIS Coordinator. Efforts continue to fill the planner vacancy left by Carly Holzschuh. Jim Butler has begun his role as part-time Senior Advisor.

B) Legislative Committee- No report.

C) Tribal Liaison Representatives – Mr. Bunnell reported that his tribal council meetings schedule conflicts most months with SCCOG Board meetings and that he was pleased to be able to join this meeting. Mr. Bunnell reports that the casinos are feeling the effects of an economic downturn but also has many job vacancies. He reported that he chairs the Tribe's donations committee and should be contacted with any requests for contributions. Mr. Bunnell reported that Chief Lynn Malerba has been appointed Treasurer of the United States and will continue as Chief while in this position. CCM's November conference will be at Mohegan Sun and will include the final gubernatorial debate.

- D) Military Command Representatives: LCDR Andriessen reported on a number of upcoming events, including 7/23's Mystic Flag Ceremony and 8/19 Coast Guard Museum keel-laying event.
- E) Congressional Office Report: Ellen Graham reported that the Senator expects the PACT Act to be finalized soon (addresses veterans exposed to toxins) and that work was processing on bill addressing semiconductor development and prescription drug pricing.
- F) seCTer: Capt. Whitescarver thanked SCCOG members for providing input into the CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy), now in draft form. seCTer would like to bring it to SCCOG for review prior to their public meeting. Focus areas include workforce capacity, housing, and energy. seCTer also received funds for several new programs: DECD funds for RISE grants and BOOST small business loans, and US EDA CARES Act funds for a revolving loan program. seCTer should hear the results of the BBBRC grant application in August.
- G) Eastern CT Tourism District: No report.
- H) SEAT: SEAT General Manager Mike Carroll reported staffing shortages have affected route starts. Ridership has increased- June 2022 ridership was 17% higher than June 2019 (pre-pandemic conditions), likely benefitting from the current free-fare policy.
- I) Regional Water: No report.
- J) Regional Emergency Planning Team: No report.
- K) Regional Human Services Coordinating Council: No report.
- L) SE CT Cultural Coalition: No report.

10. Executive Director's Report (note: there was no agenda item #9)

The Executive Director reported that SCCOG hosted a meeting yesterday with municipal CEOs to discuss current and future staffing shortages related to enforcement (zoning, wetlands, blight, building inspections) and that multiple municipalities had staffing needs that could be addressed through regional or intermunicipal sharing of staff. CT OPM is currently accepting applications for Regional Performance Incentive Program grants which may enable the standing-up of these services at SCCOG at a reduced cost to municipalities. A resolution approving the grant application will be considered under New Business. Senior Advisor Jim Butler is managing this project.

The Executive Director reported that SCCOG has completed the most recent Department of Defense-funded project to address impending parking issues in the City of Groton and SCCOG Planner III Sam Alexander is working with SUBASE New London to prepare a new application for Defense Community resiliency funds that would support utility reliability on base.

Two other projects also spearheaded by Mr. Alexander are progressing: municipal meetings are being held for the preparation of a Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation and Climate

Adaptation Plan, with public information sessions to be held the first week of August. A project kickoff for the four-town Stormwater Authority Pilot was held on June 26th.

Mr. Callahan asked if the code enforcement staffing shortage was a nationwide problem. The Executive Director noted that towns without current needs are also anticipating retirements due to the age of their staff. Chairman Allyn noted that ZEOs must be certified by January 1st and CAZEO classes are full. He wondered if an extension could be granted to the statutory deadline.

7. Guest Speaker: Commissioner Mark Boughton, BIL Team

Commissioner Boughton presented regarding the CT Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Team's responsibilities and goals and the upcoming Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant opportunities, explaining that the Governor's Office has asked Councils of Governments to assist in developing intermunicipal/regional applications. Potential projects should be submitted by COGs to CT DOT by August 5th for their review. The Executive Director asked what grant(s) will be the next focus area, and Comm. Boughton replied that Broadband funding would be the next focus, with calls occurring weekly at the State level on this topic. He cautioned municipalities not to sign any vendor agreements with contractors regarding broadband installation. The Chairman asked if the SS4A grants would have a way to protect against inflation. Commissioner Boughton hopes to put a fund in place that can be available as needed (on a competitive basis) for situations like that.

Old Business:

A) COVID-19 Response Discussion. Mr. Grant wondered what other towns had done with leftover and expired test kits. Several CEOs mentioned that expiration dates have been extended by CDC and that they have had success distributing them to the general public and local organizations. Mr. McDaniel said he would be interested to know how municipalities planned to spend the coming Opioid Settlement money and suggested that SCCOG survey their members. Others concurred with the suggestion.

11. New Business:

A) 2022 LOTCIP Solicitation. The Executive Director reviewed a memo prepared by Kate Rattan presenting the result of the recent solicitation for LOTCIP projects. The Executive Committee recommended concurrence with staff's recommendation to advance three projects (in Preston, East Lyme, and Montville) to full application based on the criteria set out in the solicitation, which included prioritizing municipalities that had not received LOTCIP funds in the past.

Motion: To invite the Towns of Preston, East Lyme, and Montville to develop their LOTCIP applications to full application status (Passero, Grant). So voted unanimously.

B) FY 2021 STIP/TIP Amendments

BRFP, 0170-5031. I-95, Greenwich-Stonington, I-95, Bridges Concrete Sealing – AC Conversion, CON, 2022, \$10,800,000, Revised Cost Estimate

STPR, 0052-0093. Franklin, Replace Bridge 01547 over Beaver Brook, ROW, 2022, \$50,000, Moved to FY 2022.

STPR, 0052-0093. Franklin, Replace Bridge 01547 over Beaver Brook, FD, 2022, \$50,000, Moved to FY 2022.

MOTION: To approve of the FY 2021 STIP/TIP amendments (McDaniel, Cwikla). So voted unanimously.

- C) Resolution No. 23-1, Relating to Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant Applications. The Executive Director stated that the Resolution authorizes SCCOG to apply for RPIP funding and is a required component of the application.

MOTION: To approve Resolution No. 23-1, Relating to Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant Applications (McDaniel, Grant). So voted unanimously.

12. Next Meeting:

The Chairman stated that it is customary to cancel SCCOG's August Board Meeting and that the next meeting would be September 21, 2022.

13. Adjournment:

The Chairman then adjourned the meeting without exception at 9:27 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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