



**SOUTHEASTERN
CONNECTICUT
COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS**

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**Representing 22 towns, cities, and
boroughs in Southeastern
Connecticut.**

Minutes of the April 15, 2026, Meeting of the Southeastern CT Council of Governments

Present:

Bozrah	Glenn Pianka	New London	Michael Passero
Colchester	-	North Stonington	Bob Carlson
East Lyme	Dan Cunningham	Norwich	John Salomone
Franklin	-	Preston	Sandra Allyn Gauthier
Griswold	Tina Falck	Salem	Sue Spang
Jewett City	-	Sprague	Cheryl Blanchard
City of Groton	Jill Rusk	Town of Stonington	Bill Middleton
Town of Groton	John Burt	Stonington Borough	-
Lebanon	-	Waterford	Rob Brule (via phone)
Ledyard	Fred Allyn	Windham	Tom DeVivo
Lisbon	Tom Sparkman	SEAT Rep (MPO)	Tom Sparkman
Montville	Lenny Bunnell	CT DOT Rep (MPO)	Ricky Milliner
Military Liaisons:	US Coast Guard Academy: New London SUBASE: Capt. Craig Litty, Steve Sadlowski		
Tribal Affiliates:	Mohegan Tribe: Chuck Bunnell Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation: -		

Additional Attendees: SECOG: Amanda Kennedy, Taylor Lussier, W Kate Rattan, Helen Zincavage, Avery Holzworth. Office of Sen. Murphy: Erin McBride. Office of Rep. Courtney: Noah Carver, Office of Sen. Blumenthal: Ellen Graham, seCTer: Paul Whitescarver, UNCAS Health District: Patrick McCormack, CT Port Authority: Michael O' Connor. FHWA: Jennifer Carrier. DEMHS: Josh Cingranelli. Electric Boat: Ross Gionfriddo.

1) Call to Order:

- a) The meeting was called to order by Bob Carlson at 8:34 am.

2) Roll Call:

- a) Ms. Kennedy determined that a quorum was present.

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office@secogct.gov.*

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3) Act on Minutes of the March 18th meeting *Action Item*

- a) MOTION: To approve the March meeting minutes (Allyn-Gauthier, DeVivo).

Motion passed unanimously.

4) Treasurer's Report *Action Item*

Tom reported that he reviewed the accounts and found them to be in good order.

- a) MOTION: To approve the April 2026 Treasurer's Report (Sparkman, Blanchard).

Motion passed unanimously.

5) Communications:

- a) A communication from the Tree Wardens Association was noted by Ms. Kennedy, reminding all towns to appoint a tree warden who must complete training within one year.

6) Public Comment: None

7) Speaker: Michael O'Connor, CT Port Authority

- a) Executive Director Michael O'Connor, who joined the Port Authority in early 2025, provided an update on maritime economy initiatives.

i) State Pier Projects: With offshore wind modification activities finished, focus has shifted to a \$5.3 million EPA Clean Ports grant (plus a \$600,000 Port Authority contribution) for a mobile shore power system at the State Pier. This system, expected within 2.5 years, will allow vessels to shut down engines and eliminate carbon emissions while in port.

ii) Fuel Distribution: The Port Authority is supporting a \$11 million PIDP grant for the Buckeye Terminal in Groton to maintain critical fuel oil distribution; without this terminal, an additional 120 tankers per week would be required on local roads.

iii) Dredging: Updates were provided on widening the New Haven channel and the high costs associated with disposing of unsuitable material from Bridgeport and Black Rock Harbors using "combined aquatic discharge" facilities.

- iv) Foreign Trade Zones: O'Connor highlighted the value of the New London County Foreign Trade Zone, which allows manufacturers to reduce or avoid tariffs.

8) Committee and Liaison Reports

a) Executive Committee

- i) [Minutes 4/7/26](#)

b) Legislative Committee: Mayor Allyn presented an extensive list of legislative priorities and pending bills:

- i) Financial Bills: Discussions included SB 388 to restore \$100 million to the Mashantucket Pequot Mohegan Fund for municipalities and HB 5002 regarding ECS funding.
- ii) Taxation and Mandates: SB 2 proposes reallocating a portion of the meals tax to municipalities and tourism. Concerns were raised over SB 447 (a \$50,000 homestead exemption mandate) and SB 449 regarding reduced assessments for state-owned land.
- iii) Zoning and Housing: Several bills aim to limit local zoning control, including SB 151 (lot size/setbacks), HB 5396 (affordable housing on religious property), and HB 5507 (mandating ADUs as of right).
- iv) Safety: SB 371 would require children 12 and under to wear personal flotation devices (PFDs) on docks and piers, raising concerns about municipal liability and enforcement.

c) Tribal Liaison Representatives: The Mohegan Tribe expressed support for SB 388. They announced a 30th-anniversary celebration for Mohegan Sun and an upcoming Metallica concert. An explanation was provided regarding the relocation of the Connecticut Sun (WNBA), citing the immense financial pressure from the league to invest in facilities that were difficult to sustain in a less densely populated area.

- d) Military Command Representatives: Captain Litty reported on a visit from the Chief of Naval Operations and ongoing hurricane preparation exercises. The Pier 31 extension remains on track, and the USS Idaho commission is scheduled for April 25.
 - e) Congressional Office Reports: Noah Carver (Rep. Courtney's Office), Ellen Graham (Sen. Blumenthal's Office) Erin McBride (Sen. Murphy's Office): Reports noted the recent EB hiring event at the former Crystal Mall in Waterford. IRS staffing levels remain a concern for taxpayer refunds.
 - f) seCTer: Captain Whitescarver provided updates including cybersecurity (CMMC) funding for defense suppliers and the availability of \$700,000 annually in small business grants.
 - g) Eastern CT Tourism District- none
 - h) SEAT- Mr. Sparkman mentioned that SEAT would meet hybrid after the SECOG meeting.
 - i) Regional Water Committee- none
 - j) Regional Emergency Planning Team: New regional coordinator Josh Cingranelli introduced himself.
 - k) Regional Human Services Coordinating Council: The upcoming meeting for this month will be cancelled.
 - l) Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition- none
 - m) Health Districts: Mr. McCormack mentioned a significant increase in complaints regarding unauthorized trailers, tents, and encampments. Mayor Allyn noted that HB 5260 may further limit municipal enforcement against encampments on public lands.
- 9) New Business:
- a) [Regional Safety Action Plan](#)
Ms. Rattan reviewed the recent review and changes made to the Action Plan and reminded towns of potential funding for implementation through SS4A, which is

currently accepting applications.

MOTION: To endorse the Regional Safety Action Plan (Sparkman, DeVivo).

Motion passed unanimously.

b) TIP Amendments

<u>0028-0211</u>	RBC Program, Resurfacing, Bridge Rehab and Safety Improvements (breakout of 0028-0207)
<u>0058-0341</u>	Modern Roundabouts at i-95 Interchange NB and SB Ramps and Sandy Hollow Road
<u>0172-0549</u>	Traffic Signal Safety Improvements

MOTION: To endorse the 3 TIP Amendments (Burt, Rusk). *Motion passed unanimously.*

10) Executive Director's Report:

- a) Ms. Kennedy reported a clean FY 2025 audit.
- b) Staffing: Ms. Kennedy reported that new hires include Michelle Maitland (Stormwater), Karen Pham (Climate Resilience), and Phylicia Adams (Housing Planner).
- c) Regional Planning: Ms. Zincavage reported that efforts continue on the Regional Affordable Housing Allocation Policy, with a focus on developing a practicable land inventory.
- d) Grants: Ms. Rattan provided information regarding funding opportunities (TRIP rural infrastructure program applications due April 24) and DOT road safety audits and safety audit training.

11) Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 8:30 am at SECOG.

12) Adjournment: MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 am. (Rusk, Pianka) *Motion passed unanimously.*