



**SOUTHEASTERN
CONNECTICUT
COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS**

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

Minutes of the May 13, 2026, Meeting of the Southeastern CT Council of Governments

Present:

Bozrah	Glenn Pianka	New London	-
Colchester	-	North Stonington	Bob Carlson
East Lyme	Dan Cunningham	Norwich	-
Franklin	Judith Novosad	Preston	-
Griswold	-	Salem	Sue Spang
Jewett City	Laurie Sorder	Sprague	-
City of Groton	Jill Rusk	Town of Stonington	-
Town of Groton	John Burt	Stonington Borough	Michael Schefers
Lebanon	Kathleen Smith	Waterford	Rob Brule
Ledyard	Fred Allyn	Windham	-
Lisbon	Tom Sparkman	SEAT Rep (MPO)	Tom Sparkman
Montville	-	CT DOT Rep (MPO)	Ricky Milliner
Military Liaisons:	US Coast Guard Academy: New London SUBASE:		
Tribal Affiliates:	Mohegan Tribe: - Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation: Bob Hayward		

Additional Attendees: SECOG: Amanda Kennedy, Taylor Lussier, Kate Rattan, Helen Zincavage, Avery Holzworth, Karen Pham, Dominic Anziano. Office of Rep. Courtney: Noah Carver. Office of Sen. Murphy: Erin McBride. Office of Sen. Blumenthal: Ellen Graham. DEMHS: Josh Cingranelli. Eversource: Egzon Balidemaj. SEAT: Michael Carroll. BL Companies: Dominick Celtruda.

1) Call to Order:

- a) The meeting was called to order by Bob Carlson at 8:33 am.

2) Roll Call:

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

3) Act on Minutes of the April 15th meeting *Action Item*

- a) MOTION: To approve the April meeting minutes (Sparkman, Allyn). *Motion*

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office@secogct.gov.*

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passed unanimously.

4) Treasurer's Report *Action Item*

In the absence of Tom Devivo, Amanda Kennedy reported that everything appeared to be in good order, though some funds would likely need to be moved from savings back to checking.

a) MOTION: To approve the May 2026 Treasurer's Report (Brule, Sparkman).

Motion passed unanimously.

5) Communications: Amanda Kennedy reported no new communications.

6) Public Comment: Egzon Balidemaj from Eversource requested collaboration on initiatives for America's 250th birthday and announced that the community grant portal for 501(c)3 organizations (grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500) is currently open.

7) Speaker: None

8) Committee and Liaison Reports

a) Executive Committee

i) Minutes 5/5/26

ii) Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (FFY2026 Section 5310)(Memo)

Kate Rattan reported on federal funding for senior and disabled vehicles. The staff reviewed six traditional and five non-traditional applications. The Executive Committee endorsed the staff's ranking based on the DOT rubric. It was clarified that Section 5310 vans can be used for out-of-state trips by border towns if trips are not regular.

MOTION: To endorse the 2026 Section 5310 application prioritization as indicated in the staff memo. (Sparkman, Burt). *Motion passed unanimously.*

b) Legislative Committee: Fred Allyn reported on the close of the legislative session, noting a lack of movement on many legislative action items, including early voting flexibilities. There was discussion regarding ECS funding, with clarification

that the supplemental aid goes to the town, not directly to the school district, and its distribution depends on whether the local Board of Finance budget meets minimum requirement thresholds. Amanda Kennedy noted SECOG is preparing a legislative summary for distribution in July.

- c) Tribal Liaison Representatives: Bob Hayward announced the groundbreaking for a new health department and the reopening of the Two Trees Hotel, managed by the Waterford Hotel Group.
- d) Military Command Representatives - none
- e) Congressional Office Reports: Noah Carver (Congressman Courtney's office) reported on DHS funding and the departure of intern Avery Holzworth. Ellen Graham (Senator Blumenthal's office) provided an update on the CDS process rankings. Erin McBride (Senator Murphy's office) noted funding for emergency operations and Safe Streets for All.
- f) seCTer - none
- g) Eastern CT Tourism District- none
- h) SEAT- Mike Carroll reported a rebound in ridership after a difficult winter. He noted that the General Assembly included funding for micro-transit pilots and that the Town of Franklin is joining SEAT.
- i) Regional Water Committee - none
- j) Regional Emergency Planning Team: Josh Cingranelli (Region 4 Coordinator) discussed planning for a busy summer, including the POTUS visit on May 20. He noted a concurrent FEMA evaluated exercise for Millstone will take place that same day. Updates were provided on the Gold Star Bridge crossover (rescheduled for May 30th) and the potential use of "Drone as First Responder" (DFR) technology. He also noted the upcoming FIFA World Cup (July) which will cause traffic disruptions regionally.
- k) Regional Human Services Coordinating Council - none
- l) Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition - none

m) Health Districts – none

n) Solid Waste Committee: No meetings are scheduled for the summer; activities will resume in late August or September.

9) New Business: Adoption of the [2027-2030 TIP](#)

a) [Resolution 26-5 Conformity with the Clean Air Act \(Ozone\)](#)

b) [Resolution 26-6 SECOG MPO Planning Self-Certificate](#)

c) [Resolution 26-7 Adopting the FFY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program](#)

MOTION: To adopt the 2027-2030 SECOG Transportation Improvement Program and endorse three included resolutions. (Sparkman, Smith). *Motion passed unanimously.*

10) [Executive Director's Report:](#)

a) Ms. Kennedy introduced new staff members: Michelle Maitland (Regional Stormwater Management and Watersheds Coordinator), Dr. Karen Pham (Climate Resilience and Sustainability Planner), and Phylicia Adams (Regional Housing Planner).

b) Regional Planning: Ms. Zincavage reported on the affordable housing recommendation policy committee and upcoming listening sessions. She briefed the Council on upcoming culvert survey field work. ([Culvert Survey Info](#))

c) Transportation: Ms. Rattan noted LOTCIP design submissions and the launch of three RFPs for consultant services, including a feasibility study for the eastern shoreline path.

11) Regional Roundtable:

a) Fred Allyn discussed the need for diverse housing stock, sharing a "tiny home" subdivision concept from North Carolina as a potential model for transitional housing.

b) Rob Brule expressed serious concerns regarding the regional wastewater infrastructure costs (estimated at 60–70 million for facility upgrades) and how these costs might impact member towns.

c) Laurie Sorder noted that she and Tina Falck are currently researching COPS

(Community Oriented Policing Services) grants from the DOJ. She requested that any community with experience in the application process reach out to share their insights. John Burt noted that Groton's Board of Ed recently successfully received a COPS grant while working with their police department. Josh mentioned that the SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) grant appeared to be opening soon. He requested advice from any members who had successfully secured this type of funding in the past. Noah Carver, from Congressman Courtney's office, suggested that the towns connect with Julia McGrath in their office.

12) Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 8:30 AM, tentatively at the Coast Guard Academy.

13) Adjournment: MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 am. (Rusk, Brule) *Motion passed unanimously.*