



**SOUTHEASTERN
CONNECTICUT
COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS**

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

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

Present:

Bozrah	-	New London	Michael Passero
Colchester	-	North Stonington	Bob Carlson
East Lyme	Dan Cunningham	Norwich	John Salomone
Franklin	Judi Novosad	Preston	-
Griswold	Tina Falck	Salem	-
Jewett City	Laurie Sorder	Sprague	-
City of Groton	Jill Rusk	Town of Stonington	-
Town of Groton	John Burt	Stonington Borough	-
Lebanon	Kathleen Smith	Waterford	-
Ledyard	Fred Allyn	Windham	Tom DeVivo
Lisbon	Tom Sparkman	SEAT Rep (MPO)	Tom Sparkman
Montville	-	CT DOT Rep (MPO)	-
Military Liaisons:	US Coast Guard Academy: Capt Craig Litty, Lt. Clara Berry New London SUBASE:		
Tribal Affiliates:	Mohegan Tribe: Chuck Bunnell Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation: -		

Additional Attendees: SECOG: Amanda Kennedy, Taylor Lussier, Kate Rattan, Helen Zincavage, Phylcia Adams, Tyler Frost, Karen Pham, Niko Xenophantos Office of Rep. Courtney: Noah Carver. Office of Sen. Blumenthal: Ellen Graham. Eversource: Rebecca Spurrier. seCTer: Paul Whitescarver. UNCAS: Patrick McCormack SEAT: Mike Carroll

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 Special June meeting *Action Item*

SECOG June Meeting Summary

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office@secogct.gov.*

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- a) MOTION: To approve the Special June meeting minutes *(Burt, DeVivo) Motion passed unanimously.*
- 4) Treasurer's Report: Tom DeVivo reported that the accounts had been reviewed and everything was in good standing.
- 5) Communications: Information was shared regarding energy information sessions for small businesses held by an organization called People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE). These sessions, covering renewable energy and energy costs, were scheduled for July 23rd at the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce.
- 6) Public Comment: Rebecca Spurrier from Eversource provided information on financing for energy efficiency retrofitting projects. She noted that 0% financing is available for 60 months on projects up to \$1 million. A new update allows for \$10,000 specifically for boards of education and \$10,000 for towns to help manage the high costs of school retrofitting. Most municipalities qualify as "micro municipalities" based on usage, allowing for extra incentives.
- 7) Speaker: None
- 8) Committee and Liaison Reports
 - a) Executive Committee
 - i) Minutes
 - b) Legislative Committee
 - i) Legislative Summary: The committee intends to begin meeting in late September to gather ideas for the upcoming session
 - c) Tribal Liaison Representatives: Chuck Bunnell reported that the final parcel in Preston cleared environmental review from the state, with the transfer expected around September 1st.
 - d) Military Command Representatives: Lt. Claire Barry reported that the U.S. Coast Guard Academy welcomed 285 new swabs on June 29th, who are currently undergoing summer training. Capt. Craig Litty reported a new commander for the Undersea Warfighting Development Center, Captain Rozek (soon to be

Admiral). The USS Albany will change home ports to Bangor, Washington, in August. Cleanup from the July 4th storm is ongoing.

e) Congressional Office Reports:

i) Congressman Courtney's Office: Noah Carver reported that the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act has become law. The Congressman is celebrating 8,000–10,000 people moving through the submarine workforce initiative.

ii) Senator Blumenthal's Office: Ellen Graham noted the Senate is currently focused on nominations before the August recess.

f) seCTer: Paul Whitescarver reported seCTer approved \$135,000 in grants for regional small businesses. They also received a \$500,000 USDA grant for the Rural Micro Entrepreneur Assistance Program to provide microloans.

g) Eastern CT Tourism District- none

h) SEAT: Mike Carroll reported steady ridership, with significant increases for the Groton EV shuttle and Groton HOP service. Funding was secured to continue the microtransit pilot programs through fiscal year 2027. Work continues on bus stop sign installations and shelter enhancements.

i) Regional Water Committee - none

j) Regional Emergency Planning Team: Tom Sparkman reported a meeting for CEOs to approve the budget is expected in early September.

k) Regional Human Services Coordinating Council - none

l) Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition - none

m) Health Districts: Patrick McCormack reported 35 cases of cyclosporiasis in Connecticut so far in 2026, up from 19 last year. West Nile Virus has been identified in mosquitoes in Milford, Norwalk, and South Windsor. Residents were encouraged to seek tick testing if needed.

n) Solid Waste Committee – SCRRA received approval for an organic waste compost project. The committee plans to engage public works directors in their fall meetings.

o) Affordable Housing Goal Policy Committee: ([summary of last meeting](#))

9) New Business:

a) TIP Amendments

0170-2026TR	Section 5311 Training/Admin
0170-3806	Replace Variable Message Signs
0170-3818	Statewide New Variable Message Signs
0474-2026FR	Section 5311 WRTD Fixed Route Operating
0474-2026CP	Replacement of 10 to 12 vehicles and the purchase of support equipment
0474-2026DR	Section 5311 WRTD Dial A Ride Funds
0474-2026JA	Section 5311 WRTD Jobs Access Operating
0474-2026WD	Section 5311 WRTD Willi-Danielson Operating

MOTION: To endorse the 8 TIP Amendments (DeVivo, Sparkman). *Motion passed unanimously.*

b) Regional Roundtable:

- i) Speed Cameras: Members discussed the pros and cons of automated speed enforcement and "Flock" cameras. Dan Cunningham noted some residents expressed concerns over "Big Brother" surveillance and highlighted safety benefits in work zones and for locating missing persons. Staff will look into holding an informational session in the fall.
- ii) Early Voting: Kathleen Smith raised the concern that grants for early voting are lower than last year despite the same operational requirements.
- iii) Uniform Relocation Act: Members requested training or a standardized document regarding municipal financial responsibilities when residents are displaced by fires or health code condemnations.

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

- a) Staffing: Niko Xenophantos has joined as the part-time Grants Administrator and regional emergency planning team administrator.
- b) Grants: Successful applications include a \$3.9 million cleanup grant for a site in Lisbon, funding for the removal of the Upper Falls Dam, and floodproofing projects.
- c) FEMA Updates: A new flood insurance study and map update for the region is underway; a meeting for community officials is scheduled for August 11th.
- d) Housing: Ongoing work includes building housing profiles for each town and updating demographic multipliers.

e) Active Transportation: \$750,000 is available for bicycle and pedestrian safety microgrants, with applications due September 18th.

11) Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 8:30 AM.

12) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 AM.