MINUTES OF 9/18/19 MEETING OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
SCCOG OFFICE, NORWICH, CT

PRESENT: Council Representatives: Glenn Pianka, Bozrah; Art Shilosky, Colchester; Mark Nickerson, East Lyme; Charles Grant, Franklin; Todd Babbitt, Griswold; Keith Hedrick, City of Groton; Timothy Sharkey, Jewett City; Fred Allyn, III; Tom Sparkman, Lisbon; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Michael Passero, New London; Mike Urgo, North Stonington; Bob Congdon, Preston; Kevin Lyden, Salem; Cathy Osten, Sprague; Rob Simmons, Town of Stonington; Dan Steward, Waterford. Council Alternates: John Salomone, Norwich; Jim Rivers, Windham. Tribal Liaison: Robert Hayward, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation; Military Liaison: Captain Todd Moore, Adam Wright, U.S. Naval SUBASE; CMDR David Milne, LCDR Dan Stefler, USCGA. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy. Other: Mike Carroll, Al Fritzsche, Cherise Perkins, Jamie Bohli, SEAT; Jaroslaw Pizunski, Amalgamated Transit Union; Grayson Wright, CTDOT; Jen Granger, UCFS; Deb Monahan, TVCCA; Nancy Cowser, seCTer; Wendy Bury, SECT Cultural Coalition; Catherine Young, CT Airport Authority; Dominick Celtruda; LT Governor Susan Bysiewicz; Kevin Budris, Conservation Law Foundation; Maryam Elahi, Community Foundation of Eastern CT; Senator Heather Somers; Representative Brian Lanoue; two unknown persons; one reporter.

1. Call to Order: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.

3. Pledge of Allegiance: The Chairman invited LT Governor Bysiewicz to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Act on Minutes 7/17/19:

   MOTION: To approve the minutes of 7/17/19 (Lyden, Osten). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

   MOTION: To approve the September Treasurer's Report (Congdon, Osten). So voted unanimously.

6. Public Comment:

   None.

7. Communications:

   None.

8. Guest Speakers:

A. LT Governor Susan Bysiewicz

LT Governor Bysiewicz addressed the SCCOG and said she was visiting all of the COGs in the state. She discussed a variety of topics including the State budget; federal low-interest funding programs for infrastructure; the 2020 Census; Veteran Recognition ceremonies being held around the state; the CT Port Authority and the Governor's desire to see transparency in state government and agencies. After her address to the SCCOG, the LT Governor responded to SCCOG member questions.

B. Attorney Kevin Budris, Conservation Law Foundation

Mr. Budris introduced himself and explained the work of the Conservation Law Foundation. He then provided a PowerPoint presentation which outlined the CLF's Zero Waste Project, and its efforts to see an expanded bottle bill enacted in Connecticut. A question and answer session followed his presentation. Members present asked that staff work to bring Attorney Budris back to the SCCOG for a more detailed discussion with municipal staff working on recycling in the region.

C. Maryam Elahi, Community Foundation of Eastern CT

Ms. Elahi provided an update on the work of the Community Foundation.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. Resolution No. 19-4, Endorsement of Targets for Various Performance Measures

The Executive Director explained that this resolution endorses five safety targets established by CTDOT.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 19-4, Endorsement of Targets for Various Performance Measures Established by CTDOT (McDaniel, Grant). So voted unanimously.

2. TAP Rural Grant Applications

The Executive Director said that the SCCOG had received before their August 31 deadline two TAP Rural grant applications. One was the previously submitted TAP application from Bozrah which has been deemed eligible for TAP rural funding, which would construct 3,700 LF of sidewalks on

Fitchville Road, and the other from Sprague for 3,100 LF of sidewalks on Main Street. The Executive Committee discussed these two applications and recommended that the full SCCOG inform CTDOT that it endorses both TAP Rural projects with its priorities being 1) Bozrah, Fitchville Sidewalks, $600,800 requested; and 2) Sprague, Versailles Sidewalks, $600,000 requested.

MOTION: That the SCCOG inform CTDOT that it endorses both TAP Rural projects with its priorities being 1) Bozrah, Fitchville Sidewalks, $600,800 requested; and 2) Sprague, Versailles Sidewalks, $600,000 requested Congdon, Osten). So voted unanimously.

3. OPM Request to Census Bureau re: County Equivalency

The Executive Director reported that OPM has now officially requested County Equivalency status for COGs in Connecticut from the Bureau of the Census, which should qualify COGs for federal grant funds for which they are now not eligible.

4. Other

The Executive Director stated that there were several items the Executive Committee considered at their September meeting all contained in their written report. He said the one item that the Executive Committee asked him to poll the SCCOG on, was his recommendation to them that we consider reducing/eliminating our mailing of paper agenda packets through the U.S. Mail. He said that he discussed with the Executive Committee the number of agenda packets mailed out every month, the cost involved, and the time it takes for staff to do this. He said he recommended that staff mail these packets only to SCCOG CEOs and Managers, including the Tribal Affiliates and Military Liaison. All other could access the agendas and packets on the SCCOG web site. The Executive Committee discussed this, and suggested that he go further and not mail any packets; rather all SCCOG members and interested persons could access them online and then download them and print them if they wanted hard copies. Discussion ensued whether or not a small number of packets still be produced and available at SCCOG meetings; it was agreed to start by trying completely paperless to see if this works. The Executive Director stated that he would make sure to reproduce in hard copy form important items for each meeting.

B. Legislative Committee/Legislative Update

Mr. Grant said he had informed the Chairman he would like to discuss possible legislation regarding the overspending of budgets by Boards of Education, but because of the time, will bring it up at the October SCCOG meeting.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives

Ms. Osten reported on a project by the Mohegan Tribe in Las Vegas.

The Executive Director reported that he was visited the day before by former Mashantucket Pequot Tribe Director of Public Affairs Bill Satti, who asked him to send his regards to all SCCOG members.

D. Military Command Representative

Captain Moore reported on the Bells Across America celebration to be held next week; the Navy's birthday celebration to be held in October; and said that the National Defense Industry fall convention is currently being hosted by the SUBASE.

Commander Dave Milne introduced himself and LCDR Dan Stefler. Commander Milne stated they were happy to be in attendance, and that the new Academy Superintendent, RADM William Kelley, hoped to attend a SCCOG meeting in the near future.

E. Congressional Office Report

No report.

F. seCTer

Ms. Cowser reported on the New England Real Estate conference that seCTer will host.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District

The Chairman stated that while Mr. Hedrick had to leave, he had placed on the table in front of everyone some information about the towns' responsibility for appointing members to the Tourism District board.

H. SEAT

Mr. Carroll reported on a number of SEAT activities, and reminded that the Board would be meeting immediately following the SCCOG meeting.

I. Regional Water Committee

No report.

J. Regional Emergency Planning Team

The Chairman reported that the REPT had adopted their FY 2018 budget earlier this month, and said he anticipated that MOAs for next year's funding will be sent to all towns soon.

K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

No report.

L. SE CT Cultural Coalition

Ms. Bury reminded about the October 4th economic development workshop they are hosting; she said that legislation was adopted in Connecticut this past year that would allow the formation of local cultural districts.

10. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director stated that he had placed in front of every member's seat the table OPM's response to the SCCOG's letter regarding the formula used to distribute FY 2020 Regional Service Grant funds. He then reported on the SCCOG's success in securing Section 5310 funds for Easter Seals, ARC of Eastern CT, Lisbon, Lebanon, and East Lyme, and he commended SCCOG Transportation Program Manager Kate Rattan's efforts in securing more funding for the SCCOG region than originally anticipated.

11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

None.

13. Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2019.

14. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:55 a.m. (Grant, Lyden). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fred Allyn III, Secretary