MINUTES OF 12/18/19 MEETING OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FLANDERS FISH MARKET AND RESTAURANT, EAST LYME, CT

PRESENT: Council Representatives: Mark Nickerson, East Lyme; Charles Grant, Franklin; Keith Hedrick, City of Groton; Timothy Sharkey, Jewett City; Kevin Cwikla, Lebanon; Fred Allyn, III, Ledyard; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Michael Passero, New London; Mike Urgo, North Stonington; Sandra Allyn-Gauthier, Preston; Kevin Lyden, Salem; Cheryl Allen Blanchard, Sprague; Jeff Callahan, Borough of Stonington; Danielle Chesebrough, Town of Stonington; Rob Brule, Waterford. Council Alternates: None present. Tribal Liaison: Rodney Butler, Robert Hayward, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation; Chuck Bunnell, Mohegan Tribe. Military Liaison: Captain Todd Moore, U.S. Naval SUBASE; LCDR Daniel Stepler, USCGA. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy, Wendy Leclair, Liz Crutcher, Sam Alexander, Carly Meyers, Justin LaFountain. Other: Mike Carroll, Al Fritzsche, Cherise Perkins, SEAT; Jarod Pizunski, Amalgamated Transit Union; Terry Jackman, Eversource; Ellen Graham, Senator Blumenthal's office; Dominick Celtruda; one reporter.

1. Call to Order: Vice Chairman Nickerson called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. and announced that Chairman Sparkman was not present because he had bronchitis.

2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.

3. Pledge of Allegiance: The Vice Chairman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Act on Minutes 11/20/19:

   MOTION: To approve the minutes of 11/20/19 (McDaniel, Grant). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

   MOTION: To approve the December Treasurer's Report (Lyden, McDaniel). So voted unanimously.

6. Public Comment:

   None.

7. Communications:

   None.

8. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation Request to Participate in SCCOG

The Executive Director said that the Executive Committee discussed the November 11th letter sent by Eastern Pequot Tribal Chairwoman Katherine Sebastian Dring. The SCCOG Bylaws currently limits Tribal participation in the SCCOG to federally recognized Tribes, which the Eastern Pequots are not. The Executive Committee asked him to see how the two federally recognized Tribes view this request, and he discussed this issue with both Mr. Bunnel and Mr. Hayward. The Executive Director noted that the Executive Committee felt that if the Eastern Pequots were not recognized as Affiliate Members of the SCCOG like the Mohegan Tribe and Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, they would still be welcome to attend SCCOG meetings an participate as a member of the audience. The ice Chairman asked if any member objected to sending a letter back to Chairwoman Sebastian Dring with this suggested approach and there were none.

2. Possible RPIP Grant Applications

The Executive Director explained that OPM issued their solicitation for Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) grant applications at the end of November, and these applications are due to OPM by December 31. He said he presented the Executive Committee with three possible application ideas, all of which would fund one-year pilot programs for shared regional staff for the positions of: Regional Code Enforcement Official; Regional Human Resources Staff/Consultant; Regional Grant Writer Staff/Consultant. If the pilot proved successful, the SCCOG towns interested would contract with the SCCOG to fund these positions in ensuing years, similar to how SCCOG towns contract with the SCCOG for Technical Planning assistance. The Executive Committee discussed the merits of all three, and agreed that staff should submit all applications.

3. FY 2018-2019 Audit

The Executive Director reported that the auditors met with the Executive Committee in December, and described the Audit as a clean opinion, with no findings of deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control over compliance. The Executive Director stated that the Audit did include the Council's new Burden, Fringe, and Overhead Rate of 107.881%, which he said will still be one of the lowest COG BF&O rates in the state. He also said the Audit reported the status of the SCCOG Reserve at $662,825. Finally, he noted that last year's Audit contained several recommendations concerning the SCCOG's financial procedures, all of which have been implemented; this year's Audit has no such recommendations.

MOTION: To accept the FY 2018-2019 Audit for the SCCOG (Grant, McDaniel). So voted unanimously.

4. Proposed FY 2021 Operating Budget

The Executive Director summarized the proposed budget, which he said is based on revenues known at this time, which is almost 18 months from the end of the fiscal year being budgeted for. He said that the SCCOG revenue picture this year continues to be unpredictable, due in large part to uncertainty regarding the OPM Regional Services Grant (RSG), which OPM increased to $341,421 this past fiscal year, and this year OPM announced another statewide increase in funding but gave merged COGs their previously received bonus due to existing statutory language. OPM has previously announced they are working to correct this inequity, but as of now formula has not yet been selected for this coming year. The largest source of SCCOG revenue remains the CTDOT Planning grant. In FY 2020 the SCCOG received $406,312 in federal and state transportation planning funds; our two-year agreement with CTDOT schedules us to receive an amount of $506,000 for FY 2021. In addition, SCCOG is eligible to use FY 2016 Carryover, totaling a little over $234,000, and while this is not shown as a revenue source in the budget, he said he intends to bring back to the Executive Committee ideas as to how these funds could be applied and if the Committee and the SCCOG Board agrees, the budget can be amended to reflect this. The third largest revenue source is the SCCOG members' municipal dues which results in $157,688 in funding. The SCCOG last increased its dues in FY 2012-13 (which was the first time in six years) and no increase is proposed this year due to the fact that our funding from other sources is sufficient. The Executive Director said that the FY 2021 budget is again balanced without proposing to use funds from the SCCOG Reserve Fund for the seventh year in a row, though last fiscal year, while not budgeted, we did elect to use approximately $88,000 in Reserve funding to conduct the Fiscal Impact Analysis and to perform the Regional Waste Management Study. There is now $662,825 in the Reserve Fund according to the just completed draft of the Annual Audit. He said that on the expenditure side, there are no or only slight increases in most of the line items, many of which we have been holding the line on the last few years. The Vice Chairman sated that the Executive Committee discussed the budget, and recommends approval.

MOTION: To approve the FY 2021 Operating Budget totaling $1,148,948 in expenditures, and which includes among its revenue sources municipal dues derived from a $0.55 per capita contribution which is the same as the previous fiscal year Lyden, Hedrick). So voted unanimously.

5. Proposed FY 2021 Work Program

The Executive Director explained that the proposed work program was reflective of the anticipated funding sources.

MOTION: To approve the FY 2021 Work Program (McDaniel, Grant). So voted unanimously.

6. Proposed 2020 Schedule of SCCOG Meetings

The Executive Director said that the Executive Committee has proposed the 2020 meeting schedule, changing the Executive Committee meeting dates from the first Monday to the first Tuesday of the month.

MOTION: To approve of the 2020 SCCOG meeting schedule (Lyden, McDaniel). So voted unanimously.

7. Bank Authorizing Resolution No. 19-5

MOTION: To approve of Bank Authorizing Resolution No. 19-5 (McDaniel, Hedrick). So voted unanimously.

8. FY 2019 Annual Report

MOTION: To approve of the FY 2019 Annual Report (Lyden, McDaniel). So voted unanimously.

B. Legislative Committee/Legislative Update

Mr. Grant stated he had staff send an email to all SCCOG members soliciting ideas for the 2020 Legislative Agenda. He said it looks like the Legislative Committee would meet on January 9th, at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Allyn suggested assigning specific legislative requests to specific legislators.

Mr. Cwikla stated it would be important to know which committees that our state legislators serve on.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives

Mr. Rodney Butler stated that the Tribe has shared interest with the SCCOG in certain legislative issues; thanked those SCCOG members who were able to attend the Tribe's holiday reception; and noted that last year was a very busy year for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation.

D. Military Command Representative

No report.

E. Congressional Office Report

Ms. Graham stated that the Senate will be approving the federal appropriations bill this week.

F. seCTer

No report.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District

Staff was asked to email the agenda for the upcoming Tourism District meeting to all SCCOG members.

H. SEAT

Mr. Carroll stated ridership continues to increase; five replacement buses should be received soon; 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 Executive Director reminded that the FY 2019 MOAs and resolutions have been emailed by DEMHS and are due back to SCCOG in early January.

K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

No report.

L. SE CT Cultural Coalition

No report.

9. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director stated that the Executive Summary of the Regional Bike – Pedestrian Plan with individual Town Toolkits had been placed at each member's seat at the table.

He then introduced all the SCCOG staff, who received a round of applause from the SCCOG.

Mr. Lyden then thanked the Executive Director for his leadership, and for putting this SCCOG staff in place. The SCCOG then applauded the Executive Director.

10. Old Business

None.

11. New Business

A. Nominating Committee Report

In Mr. Sparkman's absence, Mr. McDaniel presented the Nominating Committee report. He said that he, along with Nominating Committee members Tom Sparkman and Kevin Lyden, wished to nominate Mark Nickerson as Chair, Fred Allyn III as Vice Chair, Mike Urgo as Treasurer, Keith Hedrick as Secretary, and Tom Sparkman and Jim Rivers as Representatives-at-Large.

MOTION: To elect the slate of officers and Executive Committee as recommended by the Nominating Committee (Grant, Cwikla). So voted unanimously.

Mr. Nickerson thanked Mr. Sparkman for his leadership this past year. The SCCOG members present applauded Mr. Sparkman.

12. Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2020.

13. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:22 a.m. (Grant, Lyden). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fred Allyn III, Secretary