Economic/Natural & Cultural Resources Working Group
of the
Region IV Recovery Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday January 26, 2021
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Via Zoom video/teleconference. A recording of this meeting will be posted to SCCOG and NECCOG websites: www.seccog.org | www.neccog.org

In attendance: John Filchak, Mike Caplet, Amanda Kenney, Jim Butler, Art Talmage, Sheri Cote, Paige Bronk, Carly Holzschuh, Deanna Rhodes, Juliet Hodge, Mark Oefinger, Francesca Kefalas, Jim Bellano, Justin LaFountain, Matthew Bordeaux, Mike D'Amato, Nancy Cowser, Sam Alexander, Tracey Hanson, Wendy Bury, Susan Cullen, Carla Iezzi, Angela Adams.

1. **Call to Order and Introductions:** John Filchak, Executive Director for NECCOG welcomed the participants to the meeting and each participant to introduce themselves and who they were representing.

2. **Purpose of Working Group and Statewide Recovery Framework**: Mike Caplet, CT DESPP/ DEMHS - Mr. Caplet overviewed the State and Regional recovery framework. A copy of his presentation is attached to the minutes.

3. **Discussion of Issues Related to Long-Term Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic for Economic/Natural & Cultural Resources**: John Filchak, NECCOG. Before opening up for discussion, Mr. Filchak went through a slideshow (attached) showing the results of a survey of those invited to the meeting as a means to begin discussions.

   Comments made included:

   - The need to have one-on-one technical support for business owners and individuals to help with applications, grants, etc.
   - Long wait times and confusion at the state level.
   - Language barriers
   - The need for increased consistency around language and opportunities for nonprofits, which are historically not part of SBA's clients - which are not treated as "businesses" - resulting in confusion and complications on forms as many portions did not fit.
   - Outdoor venues (beaches, trails, etc.) are seeing significant increases in use without the proper level of maintenance or investment
   - Many organizations that do not have paid staff, but own the facilities, are not eligible/limited for any funding.
   - Funding assistance need may be overblown

John Filchak made it clear that membership to the committee is not limited. To participate/be apart of the discussion, forward your e-mail address along to **john.Filchak@neccog.org** to be added to the mailing list.

4. Next Steps: follow up meeting in a few weeks to follow up on the unmet needs, financial maintenance and care of facilities that have been closed or are operating at a decreased capacity.

5. Adjourn