MINUTES OF 7/21/21 MEETING OF THE

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

SCCOG OFFICE, NORWICH, CT/ ZOOM

PRESENT:

In Person - Mark Nickerson, East Lyme; Fred Allyn, III, Ledyard; Mike Urgo, North Stonington; Sandra Allyn-Gauthier, Preston; Kevin Lyden, Salem; Danielle Chesebrough, Town of Stonington; Council Alternates: John Burt, Town of Groton. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan, Wendy Leclair. Military Liaison: Captain Todd Moore, Steven Sadlowski, U.S. Naval SUBASE. Other: Mike Carroll, Cherise Perkins, Al Fritschze, SEAT; Erik Jarboe; Jenna Albers.

Via Zoom – Todd Babbitt, Griswold; Timothy Sharkey, Jewett City; Kevin Cwikla, Lebanon; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Michael Passero, New London; Peter Nystrom, Norwich; Cheryl Blanchard, Sprague; Jeff Callahan, Borough of Stonington; Rob Brule, Waterford. Other: LCDR Samuel Andriessen, USCGA; Deborah Monahan, TVCCA; Kathryn Faraci, CTDOT; Erik Shortell, FHWA; Sheri Cote, seCTer; Wendy Bury, CT Cultural Coalition; Patrick McCormack, Uncas Health District; Steve Mansfield, LLHD; Catherine Young, CAA; Ayanti Grant, Congressman Courtney's Office; Brianna DeVivo, Senator Murphy's office; 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 led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Act on Minutes of 6/16/21:

   MOTION: To approve the minutes of 6/16/21 (Lyden, Burt). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

   MOTION: To approve the July Treasurer's Report (Hedrick, Nickerson). So voted unanimously.

6. Communications: The Executive Director stated he had distributed a letter received that morning from The CT Community Nonprofit Alliance concerning suggestions for using ARPA funding to support nonprofits.

7. Public Comment:

   None.

8. Committee and Liaison Reports:

A. Executive Committee

1) Proposed Voluntary SCCOG Assessment Using ARPA Funds

The Executive Director summarized his memorandum to the Executive Committee on this subject. He said this would be a voluntary assessment where SCCOG member municipalities would allocate 0.25% of their County Allocation of ARPA funding to support a Recovery Coordinator position at the SCCOG. He said a similar approach is being contemplated by other COGs in the state.

MOTION: That the SCCOG endorse the proposed voluntary assessment of all SCCOG member municipalities using 1% of their County Allocation of ARPA funding over a four-year period (0.25% per year) to support the creation of a Recovery Coordinator position at the SCCOG (Lyden, Urgo).

Mr. Nickerson asked when would the voluntary assessment be due to the SCCOG, noting that each town will have a different process and timeline for approval of use of ARPA funding. The Executive Director responded that there would be no deadline, but he would not advertise the position until he was sure sufficient funding would become available to support it.

Mr. Burt said that while he supported the proposal and concept of a Regional Recovery Coordinator, the Town of Groton might hire their own staff to perform this function.

Mr. Allyn asked what would happen if only a small number of towns provided funding for this purpose. The Executive Director stated that staff would continue to support all SCCOG members in their recovery efforts, and that he would work with the SCCOG Executive Committee to determine what specific additional support staff might give to those towns contributing, similar to how the SCCOG provides Planner services to specific towns that pay for this service.

The Chairman suggested that staff poll all SCCOG members to see if they think their municipality will eventually provide the requested voluntary assessment using ARPA funding to the SCCOG.

The motion was then voted upon and unanimously approved.

2) Section 5310 Grant Funds Solicitation

The Executive Director reminded that an email had been sent to all municipal and non-profit contacts and SCCOG CEOs concerning the August 3rd deadline for applications.

3) Draft Resolution No. 21-6 re: Grant Application by Cultural Coalition

The Executive Director explained the purpose of the proposed resolution, which would declare the Cultural Coalition to the SCCOG's Local Arts Agency, allowing it to make application the National Endowment of the Arts for a grant. Ms. Bury said if the NECOG provides a similar designation, the Cultural Coalition will apply for $500,000. She further explained that this is a sub-allocation grant.

MOTION: That the SCCOG approve of Resolution No. 21-6, allowing the Cultural Coalition to make application to the National Endowment for the Arts for a grant (Nystrom, Nickerson). So voted unanimously.

4) SCCOG Endorsement of New London LOTCIP Project

The Executive Director reported on the status of New London's Williams Street at Broad Street roundabout LOTCIP project application and said that the Executive Committee has recommended that the SCCOG endorse this application to CTDOT for $3,094,475 in LOTCIP funding.

MOTION: To endorse the application of New London to CTDOT for $3,094,475 in LOTCIP funding for the Williams Street at Broad Street Roundabout project (Burt, Hedrick). So voted unanimously.

B. Tribal Liaison Representatives

No report.

C. Military Command Representatives

Captain Moore reported that the SUBASE is the first US military installation to advance to Health Status Alpha.

LCDR Andriessen stated that the Coast guard Academy was returning to full capacity.

D. Congressional Office Report

Ms. Grant, Ms. Graham, and Ms. DeVivo all reported on the work of their respective offices.

E. seCTer

Ms. Cote reported that seCTer's CARES Act funding has been expended; loan funding is still available.

F. Eastern CT Tourism District

No report.

G. SEAT

Mr. McDaniel reminded there would be no SEAT meeting today.

H. SCCOG Regional Water Committee

No report.

I. Regional Emergency Planning Team

No report.

J. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

No report, but Ms. Monahan emphasized the importance of the three areas that Ms. Elahi identified earlier.

K. SE CT Cultural Coalition

Ms. Bury provided a reminder of the letters the Cultural Coalition had sent to all towns requesting 1% of ARPA funding for arts and culture.

9. Executive Director's Report:

The Executive Director reported the State still has not come up with a way to fund the state's nine COGs' work on COVID response and recovery.

10. Old Business:

A. COVID-19 Response Discussion

Mr. McCormack and Mr. Mansfield thanked the SCCOG for their support of additional State funding to the regional health districts.

11. New Business:

A. Proposed Amendments to FY 2021 SCCOG Budget

The Executive Director explained the proposed amended FY 2021 SCCOG Budget. He said the proposed amendments are necessitated in large part by three new sources of revenue and associated expenditures not anticipated/defined at the time the original budget was drafted in November 2019, and a significant reduction in our OPM Regional Services Grant (RSG). In addition, the SCCOG incurred unexpected costs and realized savings due to COVID-19.

Mr. Salomone asked if there were any funds in the proposed amended budget that would fund the SCCOG staff's COVID recovery work. The Executive Director responded saying that there were none in the proposed amended FY 2021 budget, but that he was preparing a proposal for the Executive Committee and the SCCOG regarding municipal ARPA funding being dedicated for that purpose.

MOTION: To approve of the proposed amended FY 2021 budget as recommended by staff (Sparkman, Burt). So voted unanimously.

B. SCWA Request to SCCOG for Nominees

The Executive Director reported on a letter he had received from SCCOG General Manager Josh Cansler, sent on behalf of SCWA's Representative Advisory Board (RAB). The RAB is preparing to appoint a nominee to one of two positions on the Authority required to be made from nominees provided by SCCOG. He said that the current member whose term is expiring is former North Stonington First Selectman Nick Mullane, who has indicated he would like to continue to serve on the SCWA.

MOTION: The SCCOG nominates Mr. Nick Mullane for re-appointment to the Southeastern CT Water Authority (Urgo, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

C. Discussion/Set Meeting Date for Discussion of Use of ARPA Funds

The Executive Director suggested two dates, June 23rd and June 30, for the first meeting. The Chairman asked that he poll the SCCOG on the best date.

D. FY 2021 TIP/STIP Amendments

- CMAQ, 0170-3605, Statewide, Statewide TDM (NY-NJ-CT Moderate), OTH, 2021, $2,684,000, New Project
- CMAQ, 0170-3606, Statewide, Statewide TDM (Greater CT Moderate), OTH, 2021, $2,106,000, New Project
- HIPNL, 0103-0259, Sherman Street, Norwich, Replace BR 04047 and 03797 o/Yantic River, CON, 2021, $655,000, Add HIPNL Entry, Admin. Requirement
- STPA-BRX, 0103-0259, Sherman Street, Norwich, Replace BR 04047 and 03797 o/Yantic River – AC Entry, CON, 2021, $0, Add AC Entry, Admin. Requirement
- STPA-BRX, 0130-0259, Sherman Street, Norwich, Replace BR 04047 and 03797 o/Yantic River – AC Conversion, CON, 2023, $4,695,000, Add STPA-BRX AC Conversion, Admin. Requirement
- 5307C, 0414-XXX, SEAT, Norwich, SEAT-Facility Rehab/Improvements – Electric Charge Station FY 21, ALL, 2021, Delete Project
- 5307C, 0414-XXX, SEAT, Norwich, SEAT-Facility Rehab/Improvements – 3 Fuel Storage Tans FY 21, ALL, Delete Project
- 5307C, 0414-XXX, SEAT, Norwich,SEAT-Facility Rehab/Improvements – Replace Buses 2008 (2 40ft) FY 21, ACQ, Delete Project
- STPNL, 0044-0159, PD, CT 161, East Lyme, CT Route 161 Corridor Study, PL, 2021, $250,000, New Project

- STPNL, 0094-0262, PD, CT 32, New London, CT Route 32 Corridor Study, PL, 2021, $200,000, New Project
- TAPNL, 0103-0280, New London Tpke., Norwich, Ped/Bike Improvements between CT 82 & Town Street, PD, 2021, $192,000, New Project
- TAPNL, 0103-0280, New London Tpke., Norwich, Ped/Bike Improvements between CT 82 & Town Street, FD, 2022, $192,000, New Project
- TAPNL, 0103-0280, New London Tpke., Norwich, Ped/Bike Improvements between CT 82 & Town Street, ROW, 2022, $50,000, New Project
- TAPNL, 0103-0280, New London Tpke., Norwich, CON, 2024, $1,010,000, New Project

The Chairman stated that the Executive Committee recommended in favor of the proposed TIP/STIP amendments.

MOTION: To approve of the proposed FY 2021 TIP/STIP amendments (Sparkman, Nystrom). So voted unanimously.

12. Next Meeting:

The Chairman stated that the next regularly scheduled meeting would be held on July 21.

13. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:52 a.m. (Urgo, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Chesebrough, Secretary