SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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

September 2, 2025 SECOG Executive Committee

Minutes

PRESENT: Via Zoom: Bob Carlson, John Salomone, Rob Brule, Dan Cunningham. In person: Cheryl Blanchard, Tom DeVivo

Staff: Amanda Kennedy, Helen Zincavage

1) Call to Order: Chairman Blanchard called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2) Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3) Program Updates:
    a) Staffing: Ms. Kennedy provided an update on new staff joining SECOG in September: Planner 1s Dominic Anziano and Taylor Lussier, replacing recently departed staff Dan Robinson and Nicole Haggerty. Also joining SECOG are fall interns Avery Holzworth, Paige Booth, and Katherine Patrick. With the addition of Ms. Lussier, SECOG has capacity once again to assist with local planning projects.
    b) Regional Plan of Conservation and Development. Ms. Zincavage briefed the committee on SECOG's process to develop a new regional plan, to be adopted in 2027. Current ask is for each town to identify a central point-of-contact to be engaged in the process. As part of the POCD development, SECOG will generate a development build-out analysis. Various types of community engagement are planned for 2026.
    c) HB 5002: Ms. Kennedy briefed the committee regarding the potential fall special session to adopt HB 5002, which was vetoed by Gov. Lamont. Should the bill pass, SECOG would prepare a buildout analysis (if required) to relieve towns from this obligation. Mr. Brule expressed concerns about the bill's expected housing targets, and getting all SECOG municipalities to agree.

d) Defense- DCIP: Ms. Zincavage stated that approval of a $5.8 million grant is all but finalized. Funding will support water infrastructure in Groton serving the SUBASE. This work follows planning supported by previous OLDCC funding.

e) CT DEEP-Trees for Communities: SECOG applied for $200,000 in state funds for tree plantings and associated activities on State St in New London, which has a very low tree coverage percentage. This proposal was adapted from previous federal applications that were not funded.

4) New Business: None.

5) Potential Speakers. The committee discussed how to move forward with finding a time for Comptroller Scanlon to meet with SECOG regarding property tax reform. Consensus was to continue programming him to a regular SECOG meeting. Ms. Kennedy stated that CT DEEP had requested to appear in October regarding grant opportunities. The committee agreed to potentially have two speakers that month (Scanlon and DEEP) and advise members and SEAT that the meeting would run long if so

6) Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 9:40.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Kennedy, Executive Director, on behalf of Thomas DeVivo, Secretary