

MINUTES OF THE 1/18/17 MEETING OF THE  
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
SCCOG OFFICE, NORWICH, CT

PRESENT: Council Representatives: Art Shilosky, Colchester; Mark Nickerson, East Lyme; Rich Matters, Franklin; Kevin Skulczyck, Griswold; Marian Galbraith, City of Groton; Bruce Flax, Town of Groton; Tom Sparkman, Lisbon; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Michael Passero, New London; Shawn Murphy, North Stonington; Deb Hinchey, Norwich; Kevin Lyden, Salem; Cathy Osten, Sprague; Jeff Callahan, Borough of Stonington; Rob Simmons, Town of Stonington; Dan Steward, Waterford. Council Alternates: Mark Oefinger, Town of Groton; John Salomone, Norwich. Tribal Liaison: Robert Hayward, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. Military Liaison: LCDR Brooke Millard, USCGA. Staff: James Butler, Richard Guggenheim, Amanda Kennedy. Other: Cory Geisman, Congressman Courtney's office; Ellen Graham, Senator Blumenthal's office; Ed Monahan, SCWA; Nancy Cowser, seCTer; Michael Carroll, SEAT; Jaroslaw Pizunski, Amalgamated Transit Union; Catherine Young, CT Airport Authority; Tony Sheridan, Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT; Jen Granger, UCFS; Bob Ross, CT Office of Military Affairs; Randy Collins, CCM; Nancy Bulkeley, Dominion; Merrill Gerber, Preston; two reporters.

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 present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Act on Minutes 12/21/16:

The Executive Director stated that he has been informed that the list of attendees in this meeting's minutes failed to include Shawn Murphy, North Stonington First Selectman and Jaroslaw Pizunski, Amalgamated Transit Union, both of whom were present at that meeting.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 12/21/17, and to note that Mr. Murphy and Mr. Pizunski were present at that meeting (Osten, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

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

6. Public Comment:

None.

7. Communications:

The Executive Director stated a letter from the NEC FUTURE program, announcing the release of the Tier 1 Final EIS, was contained in the packet.

8. Guest Speaker: Jessica LeClair, Institute for Sustainable Energy

Ms. LeClair introduced herself and their planned statewide municipal certification process. She said this program is for towns and is being created by towns. She said there is an advisory committee overseeing eight working groups, all of which are led by a municipal representative. She stated that the hard launch for the program will be next November at CCM's annual meeting.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports:

A. Executive Committee

1. Nomination of SCCOG a Great American Defense Community

The Executive Director stated that Bob Ross, from the CT Office of Military Affairs, had contacted him recently about nominating the SCCOG for this award, given by the Association of Defense Communities (ADC). He said they had recently learned that the SCCOG will receive this award; an official announcement by ADC is anticipated. Mr. Ross addressed the SCCOG and explained why he nominated the SCCOG to represent the region's efforts in support of the military, and he provided background on the work of the ADC. The SCCOG is now a member of the ADC.

B. Legislative Committee/Legislative Update

The Chairman announced that the Legislative Committee would be hosting a meeting at the SCCOG office tomorrow morning with the region's legislative delegation to which all SCCOG members are invited.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives

No report.

D. Military Command Representative

No report.

#### E. Congressional Offices Report

Ms. Graham from Senator Blumenthal's office introduced herself. Mr. Wiseman from Congressman Courtney's office said he had no report.

#### F. seCTer

Nancy Cowser introduced herself as the new Executive Director of seCTer. She reported on the status of the CEDS, and the schedule for sending it to the SCCOG. She said it will be ready for the SCCOG to act on it at the February meeting.

#### G. Eastern CT Tourism District

The Executive Director stated that he has sent the membership fee as directed to the CT Tourism Coalition, and that Mr. Simmons has agreed to represent the SCCOG on that board.

#### H. SEAT

Mr. Carroll stated that SEAT has learned that CTDOT has drafted a budget with a 10% cut to that agency, including a 50% reduction in funding for independent transit districts in 2018, and no funding to these districts the following fiscal year. He stated such cuts would be devastating to SEAT. He urged the SCCOG to add this issue to the list of items to be discussed the southeastern Connecticut legislative delegation tomorrow.

#### I. SCCOG Regional Water Committee

Mr. Congdon stated that the Eastern CT WUCC process is ongoing, and that most of the Exclusive Service Area (ESA) conflicts have been resolved.

Ms. Osten raised the issue of the SCCOG and its Regional Water Committee taking on the planning for a regional sewer system since at least six towns are interested in working together. She said she has previously raised this issue, but the Regional Water Committee has not addressed it. Mr. Congdon pointed out why the Regional Water Committee has not chosen to address this topic, but said that with what is now being contemplated in the region, he did not disagree with Ms. Osten's request.

#### J. Regional Emergency Planning Team

Mr. Sparkman reminded that MOAs for FY 2016 funds were due back to the SCCOG office by January 11. He reported that only 15 towns have not sent these

in to the SCCOG, with only two (New London and Preston) being from the SCCOG region.

#### K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

It was noted that the RHSCC would next meet on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### 10. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director noted the passing of former SCRPA employee Charlie Storrow; stated that long-time SCCOG Auditor Al Rusilowicz has exercised his right to terminate his contract with the SCCOG due to his taking full-time employment with a municipality; said that the finances the SCCOG has been holding for the Thames River Heritage Park Foundation are now being returned to them as they have gained 501 (c) 3 status.

#### 11. Old Business

Mr. Lyden congratulated and commended Mr. Congdon in conjunction with the announcement yesterday concerning the Mohegan Tribe's plans for the Preston Riverwalk property.

#### 12. New Business

Mr. Simmons commented upon the NEC FUTURE letter mentioned earlier. He said a number of towns have expressed concern over this project. He said Stonington will write a letter opposing it, and urged other SCCOG towns to do so before the January 31 deadline for commenting on the Tier 1 FEIS. The Executive Director said the SCCOG had previously expressed concern and opposed aspects of the alternatives in the draft EIS.

MOTION: To send a letter to NEC FUTURE opposing the proposed Preferred Alternative, which includes a new segment of rail line through southeastern Connecticut which bypasses the existing rail line, as proposed in the Tier 1 FEIS (Steward, Galbraith). So voted unanimously.

#### 13. Next Meeting: The next meeting is February 15, 2017

#### 14. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:04 a.m. (Osten, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Nickerson, Secretary