

MINUTES OF THE 2/15/17 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; Tom Sparkman, Lisbon; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Michael Passero, New London; Deb Hinchey, Norwich; Bob Congdon, Preston; 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. Tribal Liaison: Robert Hayward, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation; Chuck Bunnell, Mohegan Tribe. Military Liaison: Captain Paul Whitescarver, US Naval SUBASE; LCDR Brooke Millard, USCGA. Staff: James Butler, Richard Guggenheim. Other: Grayson Wright, CTDOT; Ayanti Grant, Congressman Courtney's office; Ellen Graham, Senator Blumenthal's office; Ed Monahan, SCWA; Nancy Cowser, seCTer, Juliet Hodge, seCTer; Michael Carroll, SEAT; Jaroslaw Pizunski, Amalgamated Transit Union; Catherine Young, CT Airport Authority; Jen Granger, UCFS; Nancy Bulkeley, Kevin Hennessy, Dominion; Tom Kasprzak, Eversource; Deb Monahan, TVCCA; Doug Dubitsky, State Representative 47th District; Ed Dombroskas, Eastern CT Tourism District; Tammy Daugherty, New London; Merrill Gerber, Preston; two reporters; two unknown persons.

1. Call to Order: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:31 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 1/18/17:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 1/18/17 (Sparkman, Osten). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

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

6. Public Comment:

None.

7. Communications:

The Executive Director stated a letter from the SCCOG Chairman to the FRA opposing the recommendation for a bypass through the region as recommended in the NEC FUTURE Tier 1 EIS was contained in the packet.

8. Guest Speaker:

Nancy Cowser, seCTer, re: 2017 CEDS

Ms. Cowser introduced herself, and Juliet Hodge from seCTer. Together, they gave a presentation on the draft CEDS, and its schedule for adoption. Discussion occurred. No action was taken.

Kevin Hennessy, Dominion, re: Proposed SB 106

Mr. Hennessy introduced himself, and then briefed the COG on legislation pending before the CT General Assembly Energy Committee, co-chaired by Senator Formica. This legislation, proposed SB 106, would allow the State to purchase electric power directly, including nuclear power. Dominion wants to be able to sell directly to the State, and he said this bill would lower the retail rate of electricity in Connecticut, which is currently the highest rate in the nation. Members queried Mr. Hennessy on the proposed bill. Ms. Osten urged the SCCOG and its municipalities to write emails or letters of support for this bill before the public hearing.

MOTION: That the SCCOG send a letter of support for proposed SB 106 to the CT General Assembly Energy Committee (Steward, Congdon). So voted unanimously.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports:

A. Executive Committee

The Executive Director stated that the Executive Committee report was contained in the agenda packet.

B. Legislative Committee/Legislative Update

There was no report from the Committee. Senator Osten did provide an update from the Capitol regarding the Governor's proposed budget, and how that was being discussed by the General Assembly.

The Chairman then said he wished to recognize Mayor Hinchey regarding a point of personal privilege. Ms. Hinchey raised the issue of the Norwich Ethics Commission finding her in violation of the City's ethics code when she partook in a CMEEC-hosted trip to the Kentucky Derby. She said this was not the outcome that she desired, but that she accepts it, she apologizes for any embarrassment she

has caused her city, and thanked SCCOG members who have reached out to her during this investigation.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives

Mr. Bunnell reported that both Tribes would be testifying later today on a bill that would allow the Tribal police to enter into mutual aid agreements with municipal police departments. He also said they would be participating in a forum that the General Assembly was hosting next Thursday, concerning Tribal gaming in Connecticut.

Mr. Hayward stated it was the 25th anniversary of the opening of Foxwoods, and he invited SCCOG members to a celebration later this afternoon.

D. Military Command Representative

Captain Whitescarver mentioned a meeting yesterday in Hartford concerning installation of a micro-grid at the SUBASE; commented on the ongoing JLUS..

E. Congressional Offices Report

Ms. Grant stated that she had provided the SCCOG Executive Director with a letter to Congressman Courtney, received in response to his inquiry of the Appropriations Committee, confirming that there will be no funding for the NEC FUTURE rail expansion plan in the next two federal budgets.

F. seCTer

Mr. Congdon noted that Ms. Hodge has announced her resignation from seCTer, and he thanked her for her effort in drafting the CEDS.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District

Mr. Dombroskas reported that all Tourism District staff were laid off as of January 1, but that they continue to promote tourism in the region on a volunteer basis. The Chairman thanked Mr. Dombroskas for his service to the region.

H. SEAT

Mr. Carroll stated that the Governor's proposed budget shows flat funding for transit in the state, but that it is not clear what this means for the various transit districts.

I. SCCOG Regional Water Committee

Mr. Congdon reported on the ongoing Eastern CT WUCC process.

J. Regional Emergency Planning Team

The Executive Director reported that all MOAs from towns in the SCCOG region have been received; the only outstanding are from outside the SCCOG region.

K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

Ms. Monahan stated that at their January 18th meeting, the RHSCC stated the SCCOG's planned Human Services Shared Services Study was discussed.

10. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director stated he had placed the SCCOG mid-year financial report at every member's place; and noted the schedule of public meetings leading up to adoption of the draft Regional Plan of Conservation and Development;

11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

A. FY 2015 TIP/STIP Amendments

1. 0170-3439, Statewide, Federal Eligible PE: TA Program – AC ENTRY, PE, 2017
2. 0170-3439, Statewide, Federal Eligible PE: TA Program – AC CONVERSION, PE, 2017
3. 0172-0471, Various, Districts 1&2, Replace Traffic Control Signals at 12 Locations, PD, 2017, \$495,000.

MOTION: To approve of the FY 2015 TIP/STIP amendments (Sparkman, Lyden). So voted unanimously.

The Chairman announced that tomorrow, he, Preston First Selectman Congdon, and SCCOG staff would be meeting with CTDOT regarding the plans for a new Route 2A bridge, in light of the plans for the Preston Riverwalk property in Preston.

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

14. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:37 a.m. (Lyden, Nickerson). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Nickerson, Secretary