

MINUTES OF THE 3/22/17 MEETING OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
SCCOG OFFICE, NORWICH, CT

PRESENT: Council Representatives: Art Shilosky, Colchester; Rich Matters, Franklin; Kevin Skulczyck, Griswold; Marian Galbraith, City of Groton; Bruce Flax, Town of Groton; Mike Finkelstein, Ledyard; Tom Sparkman, Lisbon; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Michael Passero, New London; Deb Hinchey, Norwich; Bob Congdon, Preston; Kevin Lyden, Salem; Jeff Callahan, Borough of Stonington; Rob Simmons, Town of Stonington. Council Alternates: Mark Oefinger, Town of Groton; John Salomone, Norwich; James Bellano, Windham. Tribal Liaison: Robert Hayward, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. Military Liaison: Mark Schultz, US Naval SUBASE; LCDR Brooke Millard, Captain Ron La Brec, USCGA. Staff: James Butler, Richard Guggenheim, Amanda Kennedy. Other: Grayson Wright, CTDOT; Ayanti Grant, Congressman Courtney's office; Emily Boushee, Senator Murphy's office; Bob Ross, CT Office of Military Affairs; Ed Monahan, SCWA; Nancy Cowser, seCTer, Rosemary Bove, CT Office of Tourism; Michael Carroll, SEAT; Jaroslaw Pizunski, Amalgamated Transit Union; Catherine Young, CT Airport Authority; Tom Kasprzak, Eversource; Deb Monahan, TVCCA; Tammy Daugherty, New London; Randy Collins, CCM; 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 present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Act on Minutes 2/15/17:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 2/15/17, with the addition that it be noted that Grayson Wright of CTDOT was present (Lyden, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

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

6. Public Comment:

None.

7. Communications:

The Executive Director stated there were two letters in the packet, both commenting upon proposed legislation.

8. Guest Speaker:

Rosemary Bove, CT DECD Office of Tourism

Ms. Bove introduced herself and provided information about the CT Office of Tourism programs to assist cities and towns.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports:

A. Executive Committee

1. seCTer Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

The Executive Director noted correspondence in the agenda packet from seCTer Executive Director Nancy Cowser outlining changes made to the CEDS in response to comments made at the last COG meeting. He said that the Executive Committee recommends adoption of the CEDS.

MOTION: To approve the 2017 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the Southeastern Connecticut Economic Development District (Congdon, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

2. Possible SCCOG Bylaws Revision

The Executive Director reported that the Executive Committee had discussed the bylaw that requires one of the seats on the SCCOG Executive Committee be reserved for one of the region's three professional managers. With the impending retirements of Groton Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Windham Town Manager Neal Beets, there may be a period of time where this requirement is difficult to meet. Nominating Committee Chairman Tom Sparkman has suggested a revision to the Bylaws making the seating of a manager on the Executive Committee to be an option rather than a mandate. The Executive Committee discussed the proposal, and asked that the proposed language be adjusted so that it states that a manager shall be one of the Representatives-at-Large on the Executive Committee, when there is a manager available and willing to serve. He said before being formally adopted, any proposed amendment to the SCCOG Bylaws must be preliminarily approved at a prior meeting.

MOTION: To preliminarily approve of the proposed Bylaws Amendment to Article VII, Section and to Article VI, Section B as presented (Congdon, Lyden). So voted unanimously.

3. Regional Plan of Conservation and Development

SCCOG Director of Special Projects Amanda Kennedy gave a PowerPoint presentation on the update to the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development. A public hearing on the draft Plan has been scheduled for April 3rd; the SCCOG could vote on it at their April or May meetings.

B. Legislative Committee/Legislative Update

Mr. Finkelstein said that the Committee continues to monitor the ongoing legislative session.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives

No report.

D. Military Command Representative

LCDR Millard introduced the Assistant Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy, Captain Ron La Brec.

E. Congressional Offices Report

Ms. Grant reported on an event to be hosted by Congressman Courtney at which Vietnam veterans will be honored.

F. seCTer

No report.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District

No report.

H. SEAT

Mr. Carroll reported on service cancellations due to the recent snow storm.

I. SCCOG Regional Water Committee

Mr. Congdon reported on the ongoing Eastern CT WUCC process which he said is finishing up. He also stated that the SCCOG Regional Water Committee would be meeting on Monday, April 3rd, after the Executive Committee meeting, to discuss waste water issues.

J. Regional Emergency Planning Team

The Executive Director reported that the REPT Steering Committee would be meeting this afternoon in Colchester.

K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

Ms. Monahan reported that TVCCA was still delivering fuel as part of their assistance program.

10. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director stated that he had emailed a survey to all SCCOG members concerning their availability to attend a concert in the City of Groton where it would be announced that SCCOG was being honored as an American Defense Community. Since he had not received much response to date, he suggested that a small committee be formed that would select the venue and the date for this announcement. Mr. Flax and Mr. Congdon from the SCCOG volunteered to work with Mr. Ross from the Office of Military Affairs on this matter.

11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

None.

13. Next Meeting: The next meeting is April 19, 2017

14. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m. (Simmons, Shilosky). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Nickerson, Secretary