

MINUTES OF THE 5/24/17 MEETING OF THE  
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
SCCOG OFFICE, NORWICH, CT

PRESENT: Council Representatives: Glenn Pianka, Bozrah; Art Shilosky, Colchester; Mark Nickerson, East Lyme; Kevin Skulczyck, Griswold; Keith Hendrick, City of Groton; Bruce Flax, Town of Groton; Fred Allyn, III, 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; Dan Steward, Waterford. Council Alternates: Mark Oefinger, Town of Groton; John Salomone, Norwich; James Bellano, Windham. Military Liaison: CAPT Paul Whitescarver, Mark Schultz, US Naval SUBASE; LT JG Alexis Davis, USCGA. Affiliate Members: Robert Hayward, Mashantucket Tribal Council; Chuck Bunnell, Mohegan Tribal Council. Staff: Richard Guggenheim, Amanda Kennedy, Stephanie Molden. Other: Grayson Wright, CTDOT; Ayanti Grant, Congressman Courtney's office; Emily Boushee, Senator Murphy's office; Ed Monahan, SCWA; Nancy Cowser, seCTer, Michael Carroll, Al Fritche, Ginger Morse, SEAT; Jaroslaw Pizunski, Amalgamated Transit Union; Tom Kasprzak, Eversource; Deb Monahan, TVCCA; Merrill Gerber, Preston; Tony Sheridan, Eastern CT Chamber of Commerce; Catherine Young, CT Airport Authority; Nancy Bulkeley, Dominion; Joe Stefko, CGR; John Mark, citizen; 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 4/19/17:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 4/19/17 (Steward, Sparkman). So voted.  
Two abstentions: Mr. Allyn and Mr. Hendricks.

5. Treasurer's Report:

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

6. Public Comment:

None.

7. Communications:

None.

## 8. Guest Speaker:

Jeff Stefko, CRG re: Shared Services Study

Mr. Stefko introduced himself and provided background information about the Shared Services Study being conducted by CRG. He noted that the study is just beginning. To date, they have conducted 14-18 interviews with SCCOG members. Targets are to complete a baseline summary report by July and final report by the end of the year. Mr. Stefko emphasized that the fiscal challenges facing municipalities are an incentive to look at ways to both save money and improve effectiveness of service delivery.

Mr. Simmons asked whether the study was restricted from exploring certain areas- specifically garbage, education, and recreation. Mr. Congdon noted that emergency services were excluded from the RFP. Mr. Lyden added that in Salem, education is responsible for 74% of the budget and emergency services is 7%. Mr. Lyden stated that the shared services project will be helpful but will be limited in its impact if it doesn't look at education or emergency services. Mr. Flax asked whether CGR was looking internally at how a municipality might achieve efficiencies within its own boundaries with such functions as IT. Mr. Stefko responded that that consultant team would focus on opportunities for inter-municipal efficiencies but would note intra-municipal opportunities where they were found. Mr. Skulczyck then mentioned the complexities of managing the police function both with and between municipalities and that conversations have already been going on about sharing Police services. Mr. Skulczyck suggested superintendents be invited to attend the meeting where the final report findings were presented

## 9. Committee and Liaison Reports:

### A. Executive Committee

#### 1. TAP (Transportation Alternative Set-Aside) Project

MOTION: To accept and recommend to CTDOT New London's re-scoped Williams Street Project for TAP funding. (Sparkman, Shilosky). So voted unanimously.

#### 2. LOTCIP (Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program) Project

MOTION: To recommend that Waterford's Cross Road Project (\$3,645,400) be sent to CTDOT for LOTCIP funding. (Hinchey, Shilosky). So voted unanimously.

### 3. TOD Grant

Resolution No. 17-2: Relating to a Responsible Growth and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Program Grant: to authorize Ron McDaniel, or, in his absence, James S. Butler, to submit on behalf of SCCOG an application to OPM for \$250,000 for preparing a Regional Bike Pedestrian Plan and authorize negotiating and executing all appropriate contractual agreements.

Resolution No. 17-3: Relating to a Responsible Growth and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Program Grant: to authorize Ron McDaniel, or, in his absence, James S. Butler, to submit on behalf of SCCOG an application to OPM for \$1,500,000 for the purpose of implementing the SEAT Bus Study Recommendations and authorize negotiating and executing all appropriate contractual agreements.

MOTION: To adopt Resolutions 17-2 and 17-3. (Condgon, Steward). So voted unanimously.

### 4. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

MOTION: To adopt the SCCOG Unified Planning Work Program for 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2019, as revised. (Sparkman, Congdon). So voted unanimously.

### B. Legislative Committee/Legislative Update

Mr. Skulczyck reported that the Senate passed a bill approving a third casino in East Windsor (S.B. 957). The discussion then moved towards budget issues. Mr. Skulczyck said that session would close June 7<sup>th</sup> but likely come back after June 23<sup>rd</sup> to pass a budget. Mr. Passero questioned the Governor's proposed rescission of Pequot Fund money to municipalities and protested the uncertainty which state budget issues has caused for municipalities. There was consensus that this the Pequot Fund withholding was intolerable. Mr. Simmons provided historical background on the fund and its purposes and restrictions. After much discussion, the following motion was presented:

MOTION: To authorize the Chairman to convey to the Governor, in a letter, that the withdrawal of the last quarter payment of the Pequot funds represented a gross violation of the original intent of the fund and that furthermore such a violation would do lasting damage to municipalities by negatively impacting bond ratings. To send a copy of this letter to other COGs (Simmons, Hinchey). So voted unanimously.

### C. Tribal Liaison Representatives

Mr. Bunnell said he wanted to thank everyone who supported the legislation for a third casino. He emphasized that it was a bi-partisan effort. He also noted that on June 12-15, Mohegan Sun will be hosting a National Congress of all Federally Recognized Tribes in the country, and that the Barrett Jackson auction will be held June 21-24.

### D. Military Command Representative

CAPT Whitescarver noted that the Military will be celebrating the anniversary of the Battle of Midway on June 6 and that the Navy and surrounding towns were continuing their work on the Joint Land Use Study with public and committee meetings on May 31<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Coast Guard: No report.

### E. Congressional Offices Report

Ms. Grant (Congressman Courtney's office) noted that the President's proposed budget contained many deep cuts and in some cases elimination of programs that are considered very important to the health and well-being of the region and the country.

Ms. Boushee (Senator Murphy's office) noted that there will be a session held at the Otis Library at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> focusing on veteran's mental health.

### F. seCTer

Ms. Cowser reported that seCTer has received all required local approvals for its Comprehensive Economic Development strategy (CEDS) and it is now being reviewed by EDA. The economic development and marketing committee is working to implement it. A strategic plan for seCTer will be presented at its June meeting.

### G. Eastern CT Tourism District

Mr. Simmons reported that he had attended several Tourism Coalition meetings including an information hearing at the Capitol. Tony Sheridan offered that the region's tourism industry needs an agenda. Tourism business has been strong this spring.

Mr. Sheridan then noted that in the coming years, the region is going to be facing a different kind of demand as Electric Boat moves to hire an additional 14,000

more people. He called for a new form of regional cooperation to enable this positive growth to progress smoothly.

#### H. SEAT

Mr. Carroll reported that SEAT productivity remains about the same. There will be pending fiscal issues in the event that as projected, the budget for the upcoming year remains flat. He then noted the SEAT will not be operating on Memorial Day.

#### I. SCCOG Regional Water Committee

Mr. Congdon reported that the WUCC process is working to resolve any outstanding unresolved conflicts with respect to exclusive service areas.

A meeting on municipal wastewater treatment issues will be held at SCCOG on June 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. Denise Ruzicka, DEEP Director of Water Planning and Management, has been invited to attend.

#### J. Regional Emergency Planning Team

Mr. Sparkman reported that he now has the last two outstanding MOA's that are signed and to be sent to DEMHS.

#### K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

Deb Monahan reported on the April meeting, which concerned the southeastern Connecticut economic recovery program as well as the upcoming SCCOG regional human services project. Ms. Monahan stated that there should be crossover potential with the two shared services studies being conducted in the region.

### 10. Executive Director's Report

In Mr. Butler's absence, Mr. Guggenheim noted the following:

- The agency is now in the process of adopting an updated TIP/STIP. A public information meeting will be held on 6/12/17.
- He highlighted the fact from Mr. Butler's report that on April 28<sup>th</sup> the Route 11 Greenway Authority Commission acted to transfer all properties acquired under the program to CTDOT. Following this action, the GAC voted to disband.
- Mr. McDaniel then added that the agency has hired a new auditor at an additional cost of approximately \$9,400 over the previous auditor's contract.

### 11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

A. Report of the Nominating Committee

MOTION: To appoint the following members to the SCCOG Executive Committee to fill the existing and pending vacancies of Mike Finkelstein (Secretary); Marian Galbraith (Representative-at-Large, immediate Past Chair); and Mark Oefinger (Representative-at-Large, ICMA Member). Position of Secretary: Mark Nickerson; Representative-at-Large: Michael Passero; Representative-at-Large: Thomas Sparkman. (Congdon, Steward). So voted unanimously.

B. Adoption of Resolution 17-1: Relating to FY 2016 EMPG HazMat Grant (Lyden, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

C. FY 2015 TIP/STIP Amendments

- CMAQ, 0170-3451, Statewide, FY 17: Statewide Trans Demand Management (Greater CT Moderate), OTH, 2017, \$1,870,000, New Project.
- NHPP, 0085-0146, CT 85, Montville/Salem, Various Corridor Improvements South of CT 82, PD, 2017, \$1,750,000, New Project
- STPNL, 0120-0094, CT 85, Salem, Various Corridor Improvements North of CT 82, PD, 2017, \$250,000, New Project.

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

13. Next Meeting: The next meeting is June 21, 2017.

14. Adjournment:

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Nickerson, Secretary