

MINUTES OF THE 7/19/17 MEETING OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
SCCOG OFFICE, NORWICH, CT

PRESENT: Council Representatives: Art Shilosky, Colchester; Mark Nickerson, East Lyme; Kevin Skulczyck, Griswold; Bruce Flax, Town of Groton; Fred Allyn, Ledyard; Tom Sparkman, Lisbon; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Deb Hinchey, Norwich; Kevin Lyden, Salem; Cathy Osten, Sprague; Jeff Callahan, Borough of Stonington; Rob Simmons, Town of Stonington; Dan Steward, Waterford. Council Alternates: Jim Rivers, Windham. Tribal Liaison: Chuck Bunnell, Mohegan Tribe; Robert Heyward, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. Military Liaison: Captain Paul Whitescarver, Mark Schultz, US Naval SUBASE. Staff: James Butler, Richard Guggenheim, Amanda Kennedy. Other: Grayson Wright, CTDOT; Kevin Alvarez, Congressman Courtney's office; Ellen Graham, Senator Blumenthal's office; Michael Carroll, SEAT; Jaroslaw Pizunski, Amalgamated Transit Union; John Raymond, Windham Regional Transit; Jen Granger, UCFS; Elizabeth Norcera, New London; Catherine Young, CT Airport Authority; 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.

The Chairman then asked the Executive Director to read a resolution of appreciation for retiring Assistant Director Dick Guggenheim. Members present then gave Mr. Guggenheim a standing ovation.

The Chairman then asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add as Guest Speaker Maryam Elahi of The Community Foundation of Eastern CT.

MOTION: To amend the agenda to add as Guest Speaker Maryam Elahi of The Community Foundation of Eastern CT (Lyden, Osten). So voted unanimously.

4. Act on Minutes 6/21/17:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 6/21/17 (Osten, Skulczyck). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

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

6. Public Comment:

None.

7. Communications:

None to be reported on.

8. Guest Speaker:

Maryam Elahi, Community Foundation of Eastern CT

Ms. Elahi introduced herself and thanked the SCCOG for the opportunity to update them on some of the recent work of her organization. These included a scholarship program, a partnership with the Governor's office to create a mentoring program, the start of a community conversation in southeastern Connecticut, and the creation of a collaborative working with New London schools.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports:

A. Executive Committee

1. Local Road Accident Reduction Program

The Executive Director stated that only one application was received in response to the SCCOG's solicitation to its members for project funding under the Local Road Accident Reduction Program. That application was from the City of New London, which has proposed a \$936,000 project to replace three traffic signals in the vicinity of Bank Street and Tilley Street, in front of New London Fire Department headquarters. He said that CTDOT's application guidelines require a minimum project cost of \$50,000 and has a soft cap of \$500,000, and requires a 10% local match which New London has committed to. He stated that this project was the first phase of a downtown traffic recirculation project that will make travel in that area safer and more efficient. He said SCCOG staff was continuing to work with New London staff to strengthen their application before the July 28th deadline for submission. He noted that the SCCOG Executive Committee has reviewed the application and has forwarded it to the full COG for its recommendation to CTDOT.

The Chairman asked New London Grants Manager Elizabeth Norcera if she wished to add any comment. Ms. Norcera said she wished to acknowledge the assistance being provided by SCCOG staff, and said the City was working with their consultant to see if the project cost might be reduced to get closer to the CTDOT soft cap. Chairman McDaniel noted that at the Executive Committee

meeting, New London Mayor Passero informed the Executive Committee that the three signals were interconnected, and that they could not be separated or phased to reduce the cost of this grant application.

MOTION: To forward to CTDOT and recommend approval of New London's application for Local Road Accident Reduction Program funding for the Intersection Improvements at Bank/Sparyard, Bank/Tilley, and Tilley/Green Streets (Lyden, Osten). So voted unanimously.

2. FY 2015 TIP/STIP Amendment

The Executive Committee recommends approval of this amendment. The Chairman stated this item will be acted upon under New Business.

B. Legislative Committee/Legislative Update

Ms. Osten and Mr. Skulczyck reported on the deliberations ongoing at the state legislature on the FY 2017-2018 State budget. Ms. Osten raised the issue of State Trooper retirements, where 300 Troopers have issued their retirement notices coupled with the fact that there currently is no replacement Trooper class scheduled. A wide-ranging discussion ensued.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives

Mr. Bunnell thanked Ms. Osten and Mr. Skulczyck for their hard work at the General Assembly. He said there would be a ceremony tomorrow where the Governor will sign the bill allowing the Mohegans and Mashantuckets to jointly develop a third casino in the state. He also reported on several upcoming events, including their annual Pow Wow from August 18-20, that the Mohegan Tribe would be hosting.

Mr. Heyward also thanked Ms. Osten and Mr. Skulczyck for their work as members of the local legislative delegation. He said that the Mashantuckets would be hosting their Schemitzun in August.

D. Military Command Representative

Captain Whitescarver said that the JLUS was ongoing and that further information on this could be obtained in the SCCOG Executive Director's report to the Council; he said that since 1995, the SUBASE has spent \$98 Million on environmental cleanup.

E. Congressional Offices Report

Ms. Graham reported that Senator Blumenthal's office was pleased with the issuance of the ROD by FRA and its announcement that a bypass from Old

Saybrook to Kenyon, RI would no longer be pursued; that the Senator is working on seeing the National Defense Authorization Act passed.

Mr. Alvarez reported that the House of Representatives has retained Sea Grant funding; and said that Congressman Courtney was also working on the Defense Authorization Act and its appropriation for new submarine construction.

F. seCTer

No report.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District

No report.

H. SEAT

Mr. Carroll reminded that this month's SEAT Board meeting would follow the SCCOG meeting; reported that SEAT transported more than 1 million passengers on its fixed route service this past year, slightly lower than last year's figure.

I. SCCOG Regional Water Committee

The Executive Director reported that at the July WUCC meeting, DPH's Lori Mathieu gave a report on the draft State Water Plan. She is interested in making a similar report to all the COGs in the state. He said he asked her when she would be available to attend a meeting at the SCCOG in August, and she would not be available to attend the date of the SCCOG's regularly scheduled meeting on August 16th, but could attend the following Wednesday on August 23rd.

The Chairman noted that as has been done in the past, he was considering asking if the members wished to cancel the August meeting, but now was willing to have it re-scheduled to August 23rd. He asked members present if they wished to re-schedule the August meeting to the 23rd, with Lori Mathieu as guest speaker and with the possibility of discussing the FY 2017-2018 State Budget if one is adopted by then. There was a consensus to reschedule the August meeting from the 16th to the 23rd.

J. Regional Emergency Planning Team

Mr. Sparkman reminded SCCOG members that they have received notice of the REPT chief elected officials meeting scheduled for September 6th at 8:30 a.m., at the SCCOG office.

K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

The Executive Director stated that the July 21 RHSCC meeting has been cancelled; the next meeting is October 20.

10. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director reported on the impact that the proposed state budget could have on the SCCOG if the Regional Service Grant line item is not restored or the funding contained elsewhere in the budget, noting this was potential \$250,000 reduction in funding to the SCCOG contained in the adopted FY 2017-2018 budget. He then stated that in addition to Mr. Guggenheim's last day being July 27th, that Planner II Stephanie Molden has resigned to take a job with the NY-NJ Port Authority and that her last day was July 27th as well. He said due to the possible loss of state funding to the SCCOG, he would not advertise to fill these positions until that revenue stream is known. He then reminded SCCOG members to respond if they had not already done so to the summary sent to each town by the SCCOG's consultant on the Shared Services Study. The Executive Director concluded his report by noting CTDOT's recommendation for the award of Section 5310 grant funds in the region, with SCCOG's top four ranked traditional and both non-traditional applicants to receive funding in the 2016 round.

11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

A. FY 2015 TIP/STIP Amendment

- 0170-3403, Various, Statewide, Transit Capital Planning FY 16, OTH, 2017, \$600,000, Move from FFY'16 to FFY'17, Increase Est. from FED \$320K, Assign Perm. Number.

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

13. Next Meeting: The next meeting is a special meeting on August 23rd; the regular meeting scheduled for August 16 has been cancelled.

14. Adjournment:

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Nickerson, Secretary