

MINUTES OF THE 8/23/17 SPECIAL 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; Rich Matters, Franklin; Kevin Skulczyck, Griswold; Keith Hedrick, City of Groton; Bruce Flax, Town of Groton; Allen Geer, Jewett City; Fred Allyn, Ledyard; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Michael Passero, New London; Bob Congdon, Preston; Cathy Osten, Sprague; Rob Simmons, Town of Stonington; Dan Steward, Waterford. Council Alternates: John Burt, Town of Groton; Jim Rivers, Windham. Military Liaison: LT Tony Gregg, USCGA. Staff: James Butler, Kate Rattan. Other: Catherine Young, CT Airport Authority; Melanie Wilson, seCTer; Merrill Gerber, Preston; Sharon Pettini, United Way; Harold Jenkins, Electric Boat; Lee-Ann Gomes, Norwich Human Services; Bill Stanley, L&M Hospital; Deborah Monahan, TVCCA; Jen Granger, UCFS; Mike Carroll, Al Fritzsche, Ginger Morse, SEAT; Tammy Daugherty, New London; 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 recognized Franklin First Selectman Rich Matters, who was not running for re-election in November after serving 11 terms. He read and presented Mr. Matters with a plaque thanking him for his contributions to the SCCOG. Members present then honored Mr. Matters with a standing ovation.

The Chairman then introduced and welcomed Jewett City Borough Warden Alan Geer and Groton Town Manager John Burt, both of who were attending their first SCCOG meeting.

4. Act on Minutes 8/25/17:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 8/25/17 (Osten, Skulczyck). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

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

6. Public Comment:

None.

7. Guest Speakers: Harold Jenkins, Lee-Ann Gomes, Bill Stanley

Mr. Jenkins, Ms. Gomes, and Mr. Stanley all introduced themselves and said they worked for organizations that were partners with United Way and spoke to that agency's work and importance in southeastern Connecticut. They all asked that SCCOG members encourage their employees to contribute to United Way's upcoming campaign.

8. Communications:

None.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Executive Committee

Ms. Osten asked whether the SCCOG would be submitting a TIGER grant. The Executive Director responded that staff was aware that a solicitation had been made, and would be happy to assist any town making application, but had not contemplated any regional application. Mr. Passero stated that New London would be submitting an application associated with the future location of the National Coast Guard Museum.

Ms. Osten then commented on the proposed bill to assist Millstone, and the discussion by the Executive Committee of Bill Sheehan's suggestion that seCTer, The Chamber of Commerce, and SCCOG conduct a study on the impact to the region should Dominion close Millstone. Mr. Steward addressed this from the Town of Waterford's point of view, and said the impact would be felt by not just his town, but by the whole region. He said it would be helpful if the SCCOG would request that the CT House of Representatives bring the bill recently approved by the Senate to a vote.

MOTION: That the SCCOG send a letter to the Speaker of the House requesting that the Millstone bill approved by the State Senate, be considered and acted upon by the State House of Representatives (Simmons, Nickerson). So voted unanimously.

B. Legislative Committee/Legislative Update

Ms. Osten, Mr. Skulczyck, and Mr. Simmons all commented on the state budget approved this past weekend by both houses of the General Assembly, which the Governor has said he will veto. Ms. Osten suggested that once an approved budget is in place, that the SCCOG hold a special meeting to discuss the state budget process.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives

No discussion.

D. Military Command Representative

Lt. Gregg stated that the Coast Guard Academy was excited to have participated in last weekend's Connecticut Maritime Festival.

E. Congressional Offices Report

No report.

F. seCTer

Ms. Wilson reported that EDA has given verbal approval of the CEDS.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District

No discussion.

H. SEAT

Mr. Carroll said the SEAT Board would consider several route changes at their meeting to follow; said like everyone else they were waiting to learn the impact the State budget would have on their budget.

I. SCCOG Regional Water Committee

Mr. Congdon reported that the WUCC process was moving along well with very few ESA conflicts. He stated that the Regional Water Committee needed to schedule a follow-up meeting with DEEP to discuss regional waste water issues.

J. Regional Emergency Planning Team

The Executive Director reported that the REPT met recently and adopted a FY 2017 funding budget.

K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

The Executive Director stated that the RHSCCC was scheduled to meet on October 20th.

10. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director reported on the ongoing Shared Services Study and recent request by the consultant for additional data from each town; SCCOG's email to all towns requesting ideas for corridor studies to be submitted to CTDOT; and the

impact the State budget could have on SCCOG if there is no Regional Service Grant (RSG) funding for COGs in that budget.

11. Old Business

None

12. New Business

Ms. Osten invited SCCOG members to a ribbon cutting tomorrow for the Sprague preserve.

Mr. Congdon noted that Sunday there would be a heart walk at the Mohegan Tribal offices, and that he was walking in honor of his 16-month old granddaughter, who has overcome a heart condition.

13. Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for October 18th.

14. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:14 a.m. (Skulczyck, Osten). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Nickerson, Secretary