

MINUTES OF THE 10/18/17 SPECIAL 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; Michael Passero, New London; Shawn Murphy, North Stonington; Deb Hinchey, Norwich; Bob Congdon, Preston; Cathy Osten, Sprague; Jeff Callahan, Borough of Stonington; Rob Simmons, Town of Stonington; Dan Steward, Waterford. Council Alternates: John Burt, Town of Groton; Jim Rivers, Windham. Tribal Liaison: Robert Hayward, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. Military Liaison: Captain Paul Whitescarver, Mark Schultz, US Naval SUBASE. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan. Other: Catherine Young, CT Airport Authority; Nancy Cowser, seCTer; Merrill Gerber, Preston; Deborah Monahan, TVCCA; Jen Granger, UCFS; Mike Carroll, Al Fritzsche, SEAT; Jaroslaw Pizunski, Amalgamated Transit Union; John Rayman, WRTD; Tammy Daugherty, New London; Ed Monahan, SCWA; Ayanti Grant, Congressman Courtney's office; Ellen Graham, Senator Blumenthal's office; Randall Collins, CCM; Erik Shortell, FHWA; Randall Benson, Colchester; 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 9/20/17:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 9/20/17 (Steward, Osten). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

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

6. Public Comment:

None.

7. Guest Speakers:

- A. Attorney William Rath re: CIRCA's Municipal Resilience Planning Assistance Project

Mr. Rath discussed the Municipal Resilience Assistance Project, including sea level rise projections, and local programs such as coastal management and floodplain management.

B. Jennifer Siskind re: Anti-Fracking Ordinances

Ms. Siskind gave a presentation on the adoption of local anti-fracking ordinances, and offered to meet with interested individual municipalities.

8. Communications:

None.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. Stonington Application to Railroad Safety Infrastructure Improvement Program

The Executive Director stated that the Executive Committee recommended SCCOG support of the Town of Stonington's application for Railroad Safety Infrastructure Improvement Program funds, TIGER grant funds, and any other grant funds that can be applied to install four-quad gate loop detector systems at two at-grade railroad crossings in Stonington. Town of Stonington First Selectman spoke to the importance of having these systems installed at these two crossings.

MOTION: That the SCCOG supports the Town of Stonington's application for Railroad Safety Infrastructure Improvement Program funds, TIGER grant funds, and any other grant funds that can be applied to install four-quad gate loop detector systems at two at-grade railroad crossings in Stonington (Skulczyck, Hinchey). So voted unanimously.

2. FY 2016-2017 End-of-Year Budget Report

The Executive Director reported on the previous year's budget, as required by the Council's Bylaws.

3. LOTCIP Update

The Executive Director stated that the Committee reviewed a detailed report prepared by Senior Planner Kate Rattan concerning the status of ongoing LOTCIP projects in the region. This report was included in today's meeting agenda packet.

B. Legislative Committee/Legislative Update

Discussion centered around the lack of a State budget, and that the General Assembly was expected to vote on a budget on October 23.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives

No discussion.

D. Military Command Representative

Captain Whitescarver mentioned the ongoing JLUS; a future MILCON pier project at the SUBASE; the SUBASE hosted emergency managers; certifications for security personnel at the Base have been completed; and announced two events taking place tomorrow at the Base.

E. Congressional Offices Report

Ms. Grant discussed health care enrollment, and reported on Congressman Courtney's involvement in New York's injunction against the ELIS dredging disposal site.

Ms. Graham reported on Senator Blumenthal's visit to southeastern Connecticut this past weekend.

F. seCTer

Ms. Cowser reported that EDA has given verbal approval of the CEDS; reported on status of state funding for PTAC.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District

Mr. Simmons reported that the Tourism Coalition now has over 100 members.

H. SEAT

Mr. Carroll reported on SEAT activities; commented on safety issues; and a proposal by the drivers' union regarding Board composition.

I. SCCOG Regional Water Committee

Mr. Congdon reported on the WUCC process.

J. Regional Emergency Planning Team

No report.

K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

No report.

10. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director reported on the impact the State budget could have on SCCOG if there is no Regional Service Grant (RSG) funding for COGs in that budget; noted the year-end financial report was contained in the agenda packet; and reported on the status of the audit.

11. Old Business

A.SCCOG Bylaws Amendment

The Executive Director reminded that the COG had previously preliminarily approved of these amendments concerning making the requirement for a Town Manager on the Executive Committee permissive "when there is a manager available and willing to serve" in order to allow flexibility. He said as required by the Bylaws, Bylaws amendments require preliminary and formal adoption at two separate meetings.

MOTION: To approve of the proposed amendments to Article VII, Section B and Article VI, Section B, concerning professional town/city managers on the Executive Committee (Congdon, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

12. New Business

Mr. McDaniel announced that Montville had adopted Hidden Heroes resolution honoring caregivers.

Mr. Monahan stated that SWA's RAB would be meeting tomorrow.

Mr. Simmons announced that the Town of Stonington was floating a \$20 Million bond, and he was worried about the impact the lack of a state budget would have on the Town's bond rating.

Mr. Gerber reported on a Veteran's Coffee Shop being held Wednesdays at United Congregational Church in Preston.

13. Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for November 15th.

14. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:30 a.m. (Congdon, Nickerson). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Nickerson, Secretary