

MINUTES OF THE 4/19/17 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; Marian Galbraith, City of Groton; Bruce Flax, Town of Groton; Tom Sparkman, Lisbon; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Michael Passero, New London; Deb Hinchey, Norwich; Bob Congdon, Preston; Kevin Lyden, Salem; Cathy Osten, Sprague; 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: Mark Schultz, US Naval SUBASE; LCDR Brooke Millard, USCGA. Staff: James Butler, Richard Guggenheim, Amanda Kennedy. Other: Grayson Wright, CTDOT; Corey Geisman, Congressman Courtney's office; Ellen Graham, Senator Blumenthal's office; Ed Monahan, SCWA; Nancy Cowser, seCTer, Michael Carroll, SEAT; Jaroslaw Pizunski, Amalgamated Transit Union; Tom Kasprzak, Eversource; Deb Monahan, TVCCA; Jen Granger, UCFS; Tammy Daugherty, New London; Merrill Gerber, Preston; 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 3/15/17:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 3/15/17 (Sparkman, Skulczyck). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

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

6. Public Comment:

None.

7. Communications:

None to be reported on.

8. Guest Speaker:

Maureen Goulet, CRCOG re: Municipal Services Program

Ms. Goulet introduced herself and provided information about CRCOG's Municipal Services Program, including their Cooperative Purchasing Council, which SCCOG towns have/can join for \$500 annual membership. Kate Rotella, Waterford Purchasing Agent and chairman of CRCOG's Purchasing Council, introduced herself and endorsed this program.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports:

A. Executive Committee

1. SCCOG Regional Plan of Conservation and Development

The Executive Director summarized the public process to update the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development (RPOCD). He commended SCCOG staff, especially Director of Special Projects Amanda Kennedy, who oversaw the Plan's update. The Executive Committee has recommended adoption of the 2017 RPOCD.

MOTION: To adopt the 2017 SCCOG Regional Plan of Conservation and Development (Congdon, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

2. Section 5310 Grant Applications

The Executive Director reported that the Executive Committee had discussed the four applications for traditional project funding, and the two received for nontraditional project funding. Staff noted that at least 55% of the \$183,560 SCCOG receives must be spent on traditional projects, and up to 45% may be used for nontraditional projects. The Executive Committee recommends that the SCCOG recommend to CTDOT the funding of all four (in priority order as listed here) traditional project applications received from Easter Seals, ARC, Colchester, and UCFS. In addition, the SCCOG should send to CTDOT a strong statement urging them to also fund the nontraditional applications received from ECTC for the Voucher Program and for a Mobility Coordinator.

MOTION: To recommend to CTDOT the funding of all four (in priority order as listed here) traditional project applications received from Easter Seals, ARC, Colchester, and UCFS. In addition, the SCCOG strongly urges CTDOT to also fund the nontraditional applications received from ECTC for the Voucher Program and for a Mobility Coordinator (Congdon, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

### 3. 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.

### 4. Shared Services Study

The Executive Director stated that the SCCOG has retained the firm of CGR from Rochester, NY, to prepare a Shared Services Study for the SCCOG. This work will be funded by a RPIP grant received from OPM about 18 months ago. He said that in the agenda packet, and previously sent to COG members, was a request for information form the consultant that each town was being asked to submit as soon as possible. Ms. Hinchey and Mr. Oefinger stated they had not previously received this request; the Executive Director said he may have been mistaken and would re-send this memo to all SCCOG members via email today so that those SCCOG members not present at the meeting would be alerted to the data request. The Executive Director stated that the consultant has already collected all SCCOG member municipal budgets for FY 2016-2017. The consultant will be present and make a brief presentation at the May 24<sup>th</sup> SCCOG meeting.

### 5. LOTCIP Applications

The Executive Committee held a Special Meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup>, where representatives of the 6 municipalities, which submitted applications for funding under this round, gave presentations about their projects. The Executive Director stated that the SCCOG currently has available just over \$7.3 Million, and that the six projects submitted total more than \$10.45 Million. The Executive Committee found that all six projects were worthy of being funded, but that three of them (Cross Road reconstruction, Waterford; Jefferson Avenue reconstruction, New London; and Main Street sidewalks, Sprague) required further information to ensure that they meet CTDOT standards for these funds. The Executive Committee discussed the fact that ongoing projects may cost less than their original estimate, resulting in a return of LOTCIP funds to SCCOG, and that another round of LOTCIP funding is anticipated from the State later this spring/summer, resulting in funds that could be applied to the above named three projects once the additional information needed for CTDOT approval is provided.

**MOTION:** To recommend to CTDOT, the award of LOTCIP funds for Colchester's Halls Hill Road repaving project (\$594,355); the City of Groton Poquonnock Road reconstruction project (\$2,185,600); and the Norwich Dunham Street reconstruction project (\$2,113,200) (Osten, Galbraith). So voted unanimously.

## B. Legislative Committee/Legislative Update

Ms. Osten reported on the deliberations ongoing at the state legislature on the FY 2017-2018 State budget.

## C. Tribal Liaison Representatives

None present.

Mr. Congdon reported on the referendum in Preston approving of the sale of the Preston Riverwalk property by the Town to the Mohegan Tribe. He invited SCCOG members to attend an event at 12:30 today where the Governor will be present to witness the signing of the sales agreement between the Town and the Tribe. Ms. Osten thanked Mr. Congdon for his efforts, and said that the development of this property by the Mohegan Tribe will benefit the entire region. The members of the SCCOG showed their appreciation to Mr. Congdon with a round of applause. Mr. Congdon recognized the efforts of the members of the Preston Redevelopment Agency and the citizens of the town.

## D. Military Command Representative

Mr. Schultz noted the progress of the Crystal Lake Road reconstruction project; reported that the JLUS was moving along.

LCDR Millard reported on the service hours donated by the cadets at the Coast Guard Academy, and that May 17<sup>th</sup> was graduation. She said this was her last meeting at the SCCOG, as she has been named Executive Officer of the U.S. Barque Eagle.

## E. Congressional Offices Report

Ms. Graham reported that Senator Blumenthal would be hosting a town hall meeting at Connecticut College this evening.

## F. seCTer

Ms. Cowser said that the CEDS has been sent to DECD and OPM for their approval. She reminded that seCTer has access to Site Finder, where properties in towns can be listed.

## G. Eastern CT Tourism District

No report.

#### H. SEAT

Mr. Carroll reported that this month's SEAT Board meeting has been cancelled. He said he and the Board were reviewing possible service reductions which could be required if State funding to SEAT is reduced.

#### I. SCCOG Regional Water Committee

Mr. Congdon reported that the SCCOG Regional Water Committee met on April 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss waste water issues. It was decided to invite CT DEEP to a meeting with the chair people of the region's water pollution control commissions. The Executive Director stated that the WUCC planning process is wrapping up, and that the consultant has asked him to remind towns of the need for those declaring ESAs to sign Statements of Confirmation due by June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### J. Regional Emergency Planning Team

Mr. Sparkman said all of the MOAs had been received, and that he and the SCCOG Executive Director would now sign them and forward them to DEMHS.

#### K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

Ms. Monahan reported that the RHSCC would be meeting on Friday.

### 10. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director stated that in addition to the request for data, the consultant for the Shared Services Study would also conduct individual interviews with SCCOG town CEOs, and would be present at the May SCCOG meeting. He said SCCOG staff was in the process of mailing to all towns a solicitation for Local Road Accident Reduction grant funds, and he stressed the importance of projects that reduce accident experience. The Executive Director also noted that OPM has recently solicited from all towns and COGs applications for TOD Responsible Growth funding due June 23<sup>rd</sup>; he said SCCOG staff had generated some ideas for applications from this region and would be presenting these to the Executive Committee in May. He then reported on the status of the JLUS, and said that the public comment period for this project has been extended to May 30.

### 11. Old Business

None.

### 12. New Business

A. SCCOG Bylaws Revision

The Chairman noted that this item, involving the Town Manager representative on the Executive Committee, had appeared on last month's agenda as required by the Bylaws. He said the SCCOG could now vote on it.

MOTION: To approve of the revision to the SCCOG Bylaws (Steward, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

B. FY 2015 TIP/STIP Amendment

0103-0272, I-395, Norwich, Replace Guiderrails from Route 2A to Route 2, PD, 2017, \$150,000, New Project.

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

13. Next Meeting: The next meeting is May 24, 2017.

The Chairman then congratulated and thanked Ms. Galbraith, noting it was her last SCCOG meeting, as she has chosen not to run for re-election this May. The SCCOG expressed their appreciation with a standing ovation.

14. Adjournment:

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Nickerson, Secretary