

MINUTES OF THE 4/18/18 MEETING OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
SCCOG OFFICE, NORWICH, CT

PRESENT: Council Representatives: Art Shilosky, Colchester; Mark Nickerson, East Lyme; Charles Grant, Franklin; Todd Babbitt, Griswold; Tom Sparkman, Lisbon; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Michael Passero, New London; Kevin Lyden, Salem; 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: Adam Wright, US Naval SUBASE. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy, Sam Alexander. Other: Mike Carroll, Al Fritzsche, Rose Greenway, SEAT; Jaroslaw Pizunski, Amalgamated Transit Union; John Rayman, WRTD; Wendy Bury, Deb Mathiasen, SE CT Cultural Coalition; Melinda Wilson, seCTer; Ellen Graham, Senator Blumenthal's office; Ayanti Grant, Congressman Courtney's office; Grayson Wright, CTDOT; Norton Wheeler, Mark Oefinger, David Stanland, John Bolduc, SECHA; Deb Monahan, TVCCA; Tony Sheridan, Eastern CT Chamber of Commerce; Merrill Gerber, Preston; one reporter.

1. Call to Order: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:33 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 3/21/18:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 3/21/18 (Osten, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

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

6. Public Comment:

None.

7. Communications:

The Executive Director stated there were two communications contained in the agenda packet: a letter from Ledyard Mayor Allyn concerning the SCCOG Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan, and a letter to Groton Town Manager John Burt from Hugh Hayward of CTDOT acknowledging receipt of Groton's

notification that the Town Council had voted to not pursue the closure of Vergennes Court at Route 1 using Local Road Accident Reduction funds.

8. Presentation: Amanda Kennedy, SECHA Housing Needs Assessment

Ms. Kennedy presented the recently completed Southeastern CT Housing Needs Assessment that SCCOG staff had prepared for SECHA. This was followed by a question and answer period with the SCCOG. She said that SECHA is now ready to meet with community groups in the region to discuss the report findings. She introduced the SECHA members present: Chairman Norton Wheeler, Vice Chairman Mark Oefinger, Deb Monahan, John Bolduc, David Stanland and Treasurer Jim Butler.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. Section 5310 Grant Applications

The Executive Director explained that CTDOT annually asks the COGs to solicit grant applications for the Section 5310, Elderly and Disabled transportation grant program. He stated that the SCCOG region was allocated \$188,266 in FY 2017 funding, and that a maximum of 45% of that funding can be applied to what are called non-traditional projects, and that at least 55% must be expended on traditional capital projects. He said there was a table in the agenda packet which listed the recipients of these grant funds in the region since 2014. He said the SCCOG had received 7 traditional applications and 2 non-traditional applications. These were reviewed by SCCOG Planners Kate Rattan, Justin LaFountain, and himself using the required CTDOT form for scoring and ranking the applications. The scoring sheets in the agenda packet are a composite of staff's review. Staff recommended to the Executive Committee, who has recommended to the full SCCOG that ECTC receive all of the \$66,450 funding for its non-traditional application which would fund its travel voucher program, and that ECTC's request for \$46,400 for a van and ARC's request for \$46,400 for one of the two vans it requested, be funded. This would leave a balance of \$29,016, which the SCCOG could recommend to CTDOT be applied along with other surplus funds from other regions to Horizons Programs' requested \$57,120 for a bus, which ranked the same as ARC, but whose primary area of operation is outside of the region and which already owns a large fleet of newer vehicles.

MOTION: To recommend to CTDOT the allocation of SE CT Section 5310 funds as follows: \$66,450 to ECTC for its non-traditional application for its travel voucher program, \$46,400 to ECTC for a van, and \$46,400 to ARC for one of the two vans it requested, and that the balance of \$29,016 be coupled with any additional surplus funds not used in other regions to fund the accessible bus requested by Horizons (Lyden, Sparkman).

Mr. Lyden spoke highly of ECTC's travel voucher program and said this was worthy of funding.

Mr. Simmons asked a question concerning eligibility for using travel vouchers.

The motion was then voted upon and unanimously approved.

2. Update on Amicus Curiae Brief re: Eastern Long Island Sound Disposal Site

The Executive Director provided an update on this matter, stating that Attorney John Casey of Robinson and Cole had filed a letter of intent to file the brief with the court and the court had agreed to allow the filing of this brief by the involved parties. He said the parties to the brief besides the SCCOG include Electric Boat, Cross Sound Ferry, the CT Port Authority, the CT Marine Trades Association, River Valley COG, South Central COG, and Southwestern CT COG. He said that MetroCOG might join at a later date.

B. Legislative Committee/Legislative Update

Mr. Passero on yesterday's meeting at New London City Hall with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Connecticut Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth. He said a number of SCCOG members attended.

Ms. Osten said the report of the Commission has little support on either side of the aisle in the General Assembly. She the provided an update on the progress in adopting a State budget.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives – no report.

D. Military Command Representative

Mr. Wright said that on behalf of Captain Whitescarver, he wished to thank those members who attended the SUBASE 150th anniversary celebration last week. He said that the SUBASE is also interested in the findings of the Housing Needs Assessment.

E. Congressional Office Report

Ms. Grant from Congressman Courtney's office reported on the Congressman's office activities. She stated that CT Maritime Coalition and the New Haven Port Authority were also granted amici status in the ELISDS case and would be filing their own briefs.

Ms. Graham from Senator Blumenthal's office reported on the Senator's office activities.

F. seCTer

Ms. Wilson reported on implementation of recommendations in the CEDS; said that secTer's new web page is nearly complete.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District

Mr. Butler stated that the SCCOG was storing Tourism District furniture in the warehouse at the request of Mr. Dombroskas, while the District waits to learn whether or not they will receive any Stat funding this year. He said the District now has a small office at the seCTer offices in Groton.

H. SEAT

Mr. Carroll reported on the public hearings held in SEAT towns in April, at which the public had an opportunity to comment on the proposed service reductions due to anticipated reductions in State funding. He cautioned that even with level funding from the State this year, some service reductions will be necessary since SEAT has been flat funded by the State for several years now.

I. Regional Water Committee

The Executive Director stated that the Eastern CT WUCC has opened the required public comment period on the Preliminary Coordinated Water System Plan, and he urged all SCCOG CEOs to review this document and submit any comments they might have.

J. Regional Emergency Planning Team

Mr. Sparkman, who chairs the REPT, said we are getting closer, and urged those still needing to provide FY 2017 MOAs, to get them in to SCCOG staff. He reminded that no funding can be made available until all the MOAs have been collected and provided to DEMHS.

K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

Ms. Monahan reported that the RHSCC will be meeting this coming Friday.

L. SE CT Cultural Coalition

Ms. Bury reported on the upcoming Make Music Day, and stated that Ms. Young of the CT Airport Authority asked her to remind the SCCOG that there is an ongoing Art at the Airport display at GNL Airport.

10. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director stated his written report was contained in the agenda packet.

11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

None.

13. Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for May 16th (Coast Guard graduation is May 23 this year). CT Comptroller Kevin Lembo is scheduled to address the SCCOG at that meeting.

14. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:32 a.m. (Sparkman, Shilosky). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Nickerson, Secretary