

MINUTES OF THE 5/16/18 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; Todd Babbitt, Griswold; Alan Geer, Jewett City; Fredd Allyn III, Ledyard; Tom Sparkman, Lisbon; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Michael Passero, New London; Mike Urgo, North Stonington; Bob Congdon, Preston; 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; John Salomone, Norwich; Jim Rivers, Windham. Military Liaison: Captain Paul Whitescarver, Adam Wright, US Naval SUBASE. Staff: James Butler, Kate Rattan. Other: Mike Carroll, Al Fritzsche, Rose Greenway, SEAT; Jaroslaw Pizunski, Amalgamated Transit Union; Wendy Bury, SE CT Cultural Coalition; Nancy Cowser, seCTer; Egson Balidemaj, Congressman Courtney's office; Grayson Wright, CTDOT; Deb Monahan, TVCCA; Jennifer Granger, UCFS; Tony Sheridan, Eastern CT Chamber of Commerce; Merrill Gerber, Preston; Catherine Young, CT Airport Authority; State Representative Doug Dubitsky; Bob Ross, CT Office of Military Affairs; CT Comptroller Kevin Lembo, Elizabeth McDermott, Assistant to the Comptroller; 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 4/18/18:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 4/18/18 (Lyden, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

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

6. Public Comment:

None.

7. Communications:

The Executive Director stated there were two communications contained in the agenda packet.

8. Guest Speaker: CT State Comptroller Kevin Lembo

Mr. Lembo addressed the COG and provided a State budget update; discussed his office's efforts regarding fiscal transparency, stating that Connecticut was now #5 nationally and #1 in the northeast in this regard; spoke about the partnership in health care program; and stated that the pharmaceutical pricing transparency bill, which his office had sponsored, had passed. A question and answer session followed his presentation.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. Meeting with SCCOG RHSCC Co-Chairs re: Taxation of Non-Profits

The Executive Director reported on a meeting with the Executive Committee, also attended by Regional Human Services Coordinating Council Co-Chairs Deb Monahan and Kathleen Stauffer, along with Jen Granger of UCFS, and Norwich City Manager John Salomone. He said Mr. Salomone briefed the Executive Committee in general about the recent taxation of some non-profits in Norwich. The RHSCC Co-Chairs spoke to the desirability of there being uniformity in how their properties are considered from town to town, and the need for predictability from year to year.

The Executive Director stated that he had suggested that a task force in the region be formed to study the impact the taxation/exemption of human service agencies has on SCCOG cities and towns, and to propose solutions which might be the subject of legislation in next year's legislative session. The Executive Committee agreed to this approach. He said he will be drafting a work plan for such a task force, and will be emailing out invitation to participate soon.

2. Proposed Amendment to Statement in SCCOG's UPWP

The Executive Director explained that this statement is required to be in the UPWP, and the amendments requested/proposed by CTDOT would include reference to performance measures. Mr. Steward asked where these proposed changes are located, and the Executive Director responded they begin on page 4 of the Statement.

MOTION: To approve of the amendment to the Statement of Cooperative MPO/State/Transit Operators' Planning Roles and Responsibilities, to be included in the SCCOG's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Congdon, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

3. Resolution No. 18-5 Relating to a FY 2017 EMPG HazMat Grant

The Executive Director explained that the amount of funds being requested is \$56,500, which is \$10,000 more than last year. The funds are used by the region's Hazardous Materials Team for equipment and training. He stated that the Executive Committee has recommended the adoption of the resolution authorizing the grant application.

Ms. Osten noted how long it has taken Sprague to receive an EMPG grant it had been awarded and asked why this state department takes so much longer than others. The Executive Director said he was not in the position to answer this, but would notify his contact at DEMHS of Ms. Osten's concern.

MOTION: To approve Resolution No. 18-5 Relating to a FY 2017 EMPG HAZMAT Grant (Lyden, Steward).

4. FY 2018 STIP/TIP Amendment

The Chairman said this item will be taken up under 12. A., New Business.

5. Other

The Executive Director reported that the Executive Committee had agreed to have Mr. Nickerson address the full COG at the June meeting on efforts to construct a Miracle Field in East Lyme.

B. Legislative Committee/Legislative Update – no report.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives – no report.

D. Military Command Representative

Captain Whitescarver said there would be a naturalization ceremony at the SUBASE next Friday and he invited SCCOG members to attend; he thanked John Burt, Tony Sheridan, and Bob Ross for their assistance in resolving issues associated with the reconstruction of Crystal Lake Road; he reported that the State has approved of the funds to pay for the removal of docks in Waterford that are immediately across from the lower Base and which are an encroachment hazard.

E. Congressional Office Report

Mr. Balidemaj from Congressman Courtney's office introduced himself and reported on the Congressman's office activities.

F. seCTer

Ms. Cowser reported on lending activity and said that seCTer has applied to be a CFI which will provide funds for additional lending; stated that PTAP was working with EB and their suppliers; reported that NADO has recognized the region's CEDS as one of six best case studies nationwide.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District – no report.

H. SEAT

Mr. Carroll reported that the legislature's decision to fund the Special Transportation Fund was good news for the SEAT budget; reported that SEAT had taken possession of five new clean fuel buses; and reminded of the SEAT meeting to follow the SCCOG meeting.

I. Regional Water Committee

Mr. Congdon stated that the Eastern CT WUCC would next meet on May 31, at 1:00 p.m. here at the SCCOG, and noted that this was an important meeting because the WUCC is scheduled to act on the Coordinated Water System Plan, and he urged all SCCOG CEOs on the WUCC to attend.

J. Regional Emergency Planning Team

Mr. Sparkman, who chairs the REPT, said all SCCOG member municipalities have now provided their FY 2017 MOAs, and that the only ones missing are six from NECCOG and one from RiverCOG.

Again it was mentioned 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 RHSCC members have been working with the consultant on the Shared Human Services Study.

L. SE CT Cultural Coalition

Ms. Bury stated that her agency was hosting a forum in Norwich on Monday to discuss the taxation of non-profits issue; she asked that the cultural and tourism non-profits be included in the SCCOG task force on this matter, along with the human service agency non-profits.

10. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director reported that the adopted State Budget included an increase in Regional Service Grants (RSG) from this year's \$1.76M to \$4.1M, and that the COG Executive Directors are now discussing distribution formulas to recommend to OPM, and he thanked Senators Osten and Formica for their advocacy for having the state's nine COGs be funded at this meaningful level; he stated that he has now scheduled a meeting to discuss regional revaluation with the region's assessors for May 23rd at the SCCOG, and he invited any interested SCCOG CEO to attend saying their presence and input would be useful; and he reported on a contemplated amendment to the already submitted JLUS Implementation grant application which would provide funding to perform a housing/transportation/encroachment study in light of the Electric Boat and associated Navy ramp up. Mr. Ross provided additional detail, and the Executive Director said this item will be added to the June SCCOG meeting agenda to seek SCCOG authorization for this amended application. The Executive Director concluded his report by saying that additional information is contained in his written report in the agenda packet.

11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

A. FY 2018 STIP/TIP Amendment

- CMAQ, 0170-3496, Statewide, FY 18 Statewide Trans Demand Management (Greater CT Moderate), 2018, \$1,927,000, New Project

MOTION: To approve the FY 2018 STIP/TIP Amendment (Lyden, Sparkman).
So voted unanimously.

- B. Ms. Osten said that the legislature may be going back into special session regarding a sports betting bill. She suggested that the SCCOG inform the General Assembly to remove the requirement that the BIA must make a decision on approving a third Connecticut casino.

13. Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for June 20.

14. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:48 a.m. (Nickerson, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Nickerson, Secretary