

MINUTES OF THE 3/5/18
SCCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
SCCOG Office, Norwich, CT

Present: Michael Passero, Tom Sparkman, Art Shilosky, Mark Nickerson, Ron McDaniel, Jim Rivers

Staff: James Butler

Chairman Passero opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

The Executive Director asked that the following item be added to the agenda due its time sensitive nature and the Executive Committee agreed to add it.

1. Cross Sound Ferry Grant Application to MARAD

The Executive Director explained he had been contacted by Stan Mickus of Cross Sound Ferry concerning a grant application that Cross Sound Ferry was making to the USDOT Maritime Administration (MARAD) under the America's Marine Highway (AMH) Program. Cross Sound was seeking \$503,250 in funds, to be matched by \$1,021,750 in their own funds, to make shoreside infrastructure improvements at their site in New London. He said Mr. Mickus contacted him Thursday night about this, thinking at that time that there was a Friday, March 1, 5:00 p.m. deadline. That deadline was extended to today, Monday, March 5th, at 5:00, due to Friday's nor'easter storm event. The purpose of Mr. Mickus' contact to the Executive Director was to request that the SCCOG make this application using its DUNS number on behalf of Cross Sound, because they had just learned that the CT Port Authority was not able to do so at this time. The predecessor of the CT Port Authority, the CTDOT Bureau of Aviation and Ports had submitted a preliminary round application that had preceded this, but that bureau no longer exists. The Executive Director said he explained on Friday morning to Mr. Mickus that he had several concerns about doing this, even though he felt this was a worthy application. He said his major concern was that it has long been SCCOG policy that staff does not typically submit grant applications without SCCOG approval. He said the deadline extension to today allows this to be discussed with the Executive Committee, and allowed the Cross Sound consultant preparing the grant application to make modifications addressing the SCCOG Executive Director concerns, including the addition of the CT Port Authority to the grant application and that agency's designation as grant administrator and fiduciary. It is possible that during consideration of the grant application, the CT Port Authority will become qualified to be the sole applicant to MARAD. The Executive Director stated that Mr. Mickus has agreed that Cross Sound would reimburse the SCCOG for any administration costs that are incurred should we agree to submit this application. He also said he informed Mr. Mickus that while he would seek Executive Committee approval at this morning's meeting, if the Executive Committee agreed, the issue would be placed on the March 21 SCCOG board agenda and if for some reason the full SCCOG did not approve of the SCCOG being the applicant, the SCCOG would have to withdraw. Discussion ensued.

MOTION: To recommend to the full SCCOG the approval of the SCCOG's submission of a grant application on behalf of Cross Sound Ferry for \$503,250 in grant funds from the

USDOT Maritime Administration (MARAD) for improvements to the shorefront of the ferry terminal in New London (McDaniel, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

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

The Executive Director reported that he and Attorney Mike Carey of Suisman Shapiro, who had agreed to prepare this brief for the SCCOG, had met Friday afternoon at Electric Boat with their General Counsel and Manager of Environmental Resources to discuss EB joining with us in filing an Amicus brief. At that meeting it was realized that Suisman Shapiro could not take on EB as a client due to the fact that they had a conflict of interest in that their firm represents shipyard workers who have claims against EB. The EB General Counsel said he would reach out to Attorney John Casey at Robinson and Cole, who does other legal work for EB and who was preparing an Amicus brief in this matter for the CT Port Authority. The Executive Director said he informed Mr. Carey after that meeting that he would discuss the conflict with the Executive Committee meeting on Monday, but that he anticipated that the SCCOG would want to go in with EB in filing this brief and would therefore have to select another law firm. The Executive Director also stated that he had reached out to the four other coastal COGs inviting them to join us, but had not received definitive commitments yet.

The Executive Committee agreed that they wished to see that the SCCOG join EB as parties to this brief and understood that in that case, Suisman Shapiro could not represent the SCCOG.

3. Legislative Meeting Update

The Executive Director reported on a telephone call he had received from a member of the southeastern Connecticut delegation as a follow up to the meeting held with the delegation in February.

4. Shared Services Study Implementation Update

The Executive Director stated that Ledyard had recently joined Ledge Light Health District, leaving only one SCCOG member municipality which is not a member of a regional health district which was a recommendation the Shared Services Study. He mentioned that he had testified last week about the SCCOG study at the invitation of the General Assembly's Planning and Development Committee. He discussed next steps in seeing the recommendations of this study implemented, and he characterized the study as very time and one of the most important he has worked on at the SCCOG. He said with all that is going on with state budget issues, the need for municipalities to share is becoming critical. He said he will be asking for SCCOG member CEO support as he works with town hall staff to implement the study recommendations.

5. Request by NJIT to Address COG re: Brownfield Technical Assistance

The Executive Committee agreed to schedule the NJIT to address the COG at the March 21st meeting regarding their free Brownfield Technical Assistance program to municipalities.

6. Other

The Executive Director reported on the CTDOT public hearing on transit fare hikes/service reductions that he and Senior Planner Kate Rattan had attended last week at New London City Hall.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:25a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

James S. Butler, Executive Director