

MINUTES OF THE 7/18/18 MEETING OF THE  
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
SCCOG OFFICE, NORWICH, CT

PRESENT: Council Representatives: Glenn Pianka, Bozrah; Art Shilosky, Colchester; Charles Grant, Franklin; Todd Babbitt, Griswold; Keith Hedrick, City of Groton; Fred Allyn, III, Ledyard; Tom Sparkman, Lisbon; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Michael Passero, New London; Mike Urgo, North Stonington; Bob Congdon, Preston; Kevin Lyden, Salem; 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; LT Tony Gregg, USCGA. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy. Other: Mike Carroll, Al Fritzsche, SEAT; Nancy Cowser, seCTer; Jen Granger, UCFS; Wendy Bury, SE CT Cultural Coalition; Ayanti Grant, Congressman Courtney's office; Ellen Graham, Senator Blumenthal's office; Deb Monahan, TVCCA; Merrill Gerber, Preston; Randy Collins, CCM; State Representative Holly Cheeseman; 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 6/2018:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 6/20/18 (McDaniel, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

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

6. Public Comment:

State Representative Holly Cheeseman said that she wished to address the SCCOG on a very serious issue. She said that because of the way that CTDEEP has structured an RFP for zero carbon energy, Dominion Nuclear may be leaving the state. She explained that by adding a definition for "at-risk time period", Dominion will not be eligible to bid until 2023. She said this is counter to what the legislative intent was when they passed a bill allowing an auction to be deemed necessary, and to the Governor's Executive Order. She said Dominion will shutter Millstone if they are not allowed to participate in this energy auction, and that the CTDEEP has no backup plan if this were to happen. She said the

deadline for commenting on the draft RFP is this coming Friday, and she urged the COG to write a letter on this matter. Representative Cheeseman distributed copies of an editorial from The Day, and a letter from the southeastern Connecticut legislative delegation.

In response to a question from Mr. Sparkman, Representative Cheeseman said she was requesting letters from the COG and individual towns. In response to a question from Mr. Pianka, she said that both Senators Formica and Osten are signatories to the delegation's letter. In response to Mr. Simmons' inquiry, she said that Representative Urban had not signed the delegation's letter. Representative Cheeseman stressed that the delegation's letter was a bipartisan effort.

Mr. Steward pointed out that the RFP was drafted by two state agencies, CT DEEP and PURA. He said what has to change in the RFP to allow Dominion to respond would be the "at-risk time period" definition.

MOTION: That the SCCOG send a letter of concern, asking removal of the "at-risk time period definition" which contradicts legislative intent (Lyden, Simmons).

Discussion ensued. Mr. Simmons called southeastern Connecticut a center for nuclear excellence. Mr. Urgo stated he would not be voting in favor, only because he did not know enough about this issue. Mr. Passero stated a similar sentiment about the time period to act and research this issue. The Executive Director stated that if the motion passed, he would draft the letter for his own signature on behalf of the SCCOG.

Mr. Congdon suggested that if the mover and second agreed, that the motion be modified to simply state that the SCCOG send a letter of concern, with a request that the RFP be amended to comply with the legislation that was enacted by the General Assembly. Both Mr. Lyden and Mr. Simmons agreed.

MOTION: That the SCCOG send a letter of concern, asking that the RFP be amended to comply with the legislation that was enacted by the General Assembly (Lyden, Simmons). So voted unanimously.

#### 7. Communications:

The Executive Director noted there was a communication from SCWA in the agenda packet to the Miller's Pond Company providing notice that SCWA has decided not to pursue the joint venture proposed by the Miller's Pond Company.

#### 8. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. Cancellation of August 15<sup>th</sup> COG Meeting

The Executive Director stated that the Executive Committee has recommended cancellation of the August COG meeting.

MOTION: To cancel the August 15<sup>th</sup> COG meeting (Steward, McDaniel). So voted unanimously.

2. Other

The Executive Director stated these are in the Executive Committee's written report, and that he would cover some of them later in his report.

B. Legislative Committee/Legislative Update – no report.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives – no report.

D. Military Command Representative

Captain Whitescarver referenced the JLUS implementation grant application which has been improved; invited SCCOG members to a July 25<sup>th</sup> groundbreaking for a new Fuel Cell Park on the SUBASE.

E. Congressional Office Report – no report.

F. seCTer

Ms. Cowser announced a photo shoot of the region which seCTer will soon undertake.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District – no report.

H. SEAT

Mr. Carroll that SEAT was finalizing prep of the new buses, which should be in service next week. He said there was no SEAT meeting today.

I. Regional Water Committee – no report.

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 there is only one missing form a NECCOG municipality.

K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

Ms. Monahan reported that the RHSCC will be meeting this Friday, and that members continue to work with the consultant on the Shared Human Services Study. She also said that energy assistance applications will be received by TVCCA beginning on August 1<sup>st</sup>. She then thanked those SCCOG members who recently wrote letters of support on behalf of TVCCA.

L. SE CT Cultural Coalition

Ms. Bury stated that the Cultural Coalition will be developing a program that examines why non-profits in southeastern Connecticut are under-represented in applications for grant funding.

9. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director reported on a number of items from his written report including: a SCCOG selection committee has selected AECOM as the lead consultant for the SCCOG Bike-Ped Plan, and that a contract has been signed and work has begun; the JLUS implementation grant application, second part, which will look at the transit and hosing impacts of the EB ramp-up, has been approved by OEA and the RFP/RFQ has been made public with responds due to the SCCOG by August 31; and in light of the increase in Regional Service Grant funding from OPM, he has submitted to OPM a required revised spending plan, which is consistent with the SCCOG adopted work plan for the fiscal year. He also reminded towns to let him know if they wish to join the CRCOG Regional Purchasing Council; to date 12 SCCOG municipalities have indicated their desire to join.

10. Old Business

None.

11. New Business

A. FY 2018 STIP/TIP Amendment

- 5307P, 0414-XXXX, SEAT, Norwich, SEAT Facility Improvements/Repairs FY 18, CON, 2018, \$150,000, New Project

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

12. Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for September 19th.

Mr. McDaniel reminded that there would be a ribbon cutting at the new EWIB Job Center in Montville on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Urgo expressed concern over the delay in school construction reimbursement.

The Executive Director said he had forgotten under his report, so he provided a brief update on two issues he was working on: regional revaluation and the task force to study the impact that the property tax exemptions for non-profits have on municipalities in the region.

Mr. Condon stated he had attended a meeting in Norwich regarding special education funding and that he anticipated this would be a topic of future discussions

13. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:29 a.m. (Sparkman, Steward). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Nickerson, Secretary