

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; 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; Dan Steward, Waterford. Council Alternates: John Prue, Town of Stonington. Tribal Liaison: Military Liaison: Adam Wright, US Naval SUBASE; RADM James Rendon, USCGA; unknown officer. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan. Other: Mike Carroll, Al Fritzsche, Rose Greenway, SEAT; Jaroslaw Pizunski, Amalgamated Transit Union Nancy Cowser, seCTer; Jen Granger, UCFS; Wendy Bury, Deb Mathiasen, SE CT Cultural Coalition; Ayanti Grant, Congressman Courtney's office; Emily Boushee, Senator Blumenthal's office; Deb Monahan, TVCCA; Merrill Gerber, Preston; Randy Collins, CCM; State Representative Doug Dubitsky; Bob Ross, CT OMA; Nancy Bulkeley, Dominion; Tom Kasprzak, Eversource; Commissioner James Redeker, Grayson Wright, CTDOT; Catherine Young, CT Airport Authority; Felix Reyes, City of New London; Dominick Celtruda, BL Companies; one unknown person; 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 7/18/2018:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 7/18/18 (Sparkman, Steward). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

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

6. Public Comment:

None.

7. Communications:

The Executive stated these were in the agenda packet.

8. Guest Speaker: CTDOT Commissioner James Redeker re: State Budget Impact

Commissioner Redeker addressed what happened in advance of adoption of the state FY 2019 budget. He said that CTDOT staff was reduced by 15%, a reduction of 480 from a total of 3,000. He said that this issue is not fixed yet, for while the budget to restore this staff has been approved, he does not yet have approval to re-fill the positions. He discussed the proposed legislation concerning a transportation funds lock box, and urged passage of this in November. He said that going forward, CTDOT would be in good shape, with federal STF funds to the state increasing over the next five years. He said this level of increase in funding is equivalent to what Governor Malloy called for in his Lets Go CT program. Next steps include restarting projects and programs, preparation of a new five-year capital program, and preparation of a new five-year operating budget. The Commissioner said that this past July, the state Bond Commission authorized funding to study tolling, but this study being prepared will be contingent on the approval of the new Governor to be elected in November. He stated that CTDOT's analysis shows that tolling could generate \$1B a year, with 40% of that coming from out-of-state drivers. The Commissioner then provided a preview of projects in 2019.

In Q&A afterwards, SCCOG members asked Commissioner Redeker questions about tolling; the issue of white oaks dying off and how they will impact roads; projects in southeastern Connecticut to be included on the capital project list; I-95 congestion; lack of lighting along portions of I-95; congestion pricing as a way to overcome arguments against tolling; and the re-initiation of funding for local road projects.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. Re-endorsement/Approval of Cost Increase for Halls Hill Road LOTCIP Project

The Executive Director stated that the Halls Hill Road LOTCIP Project in Colchester has increased in price from the \$594,355 originally estimated to \$709,095. The cost increase was the result of review by CTDOT, and SCCOG must approve of this prior to the State's Commitment to Fund. He explained the cost increase is due to the need to increase the depth of milling and paving from 2.5 inches to 3 inches, and the addition of Minor Items at 10% as a line item, which also drives up the cost of Contingencies and Incidentals. He said that the SCCOG has LOTCIP funds available and that the Executive Committee has recommended in favor of this increase.

MOTION: To re-endorse/approve of the cost increase to \$709,095 for the Halls Hill Road LOTCIP Project in Colchester (Congdon, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

2. Proposed Revisions to SCCOG Public Participation & Consultation Process for Transportation Planning

The Executive Director stated that this document has been revised to explain in more detail how the document will be reassessed on a regular basis, and to improve its formatting. Changes were prepared by staff Planner Sam Alexander, and were in response to comments made by FTA at SEAT's Triennial review this past summer. SEAT follows SCCOG's public participation process, as the region's MPO, so this document was reviewed by FTA at that time and FTA commented upon the need to provide more detail on its revaluation. The document has been posted on the SCCOG web site, a legal ad has been run in the local newspaper, and a 45-day public comment period is now underway. These revisions will be scheduled for SCCOG action at the October 17th meeting.

B. Legislative Committee/Legislative Update

The Executive Director reminded that the Executive Committee has offered to prepare this year's Legislative Agenda, and invited input from all SCCOG members. He said he sent an email to all SCCOG CEOs and Managers requesting input before the Executive Committee next takes this up at their October 1st meeting.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives – no report.

D. Military Command Representative

RADM Rendon reported on this year's plebe class; the success of the Academy's fall athletic teams; the initiation of a new Cyber major; legislation enacted allowing the USCGA to receive grants; participation in the CT Maritime Heritage Festival; the Pass and Review by the Corps of Cadets held this past Friday honoring New London's emergency responders; and on local schools visiting the Academy all week and next week.

Mr. Wright said he was excited about the work to begin soon using the JLUS implementation grant; and stated that the federal Government Services Administration has issued a bid request for purchase of the former Shepherd of the Sea chapel.

E. Congressional Office Report

Ms. Grant reported on activity at Congressman Cortney's office.

Ms. Boushee reported on activity at Senator Murphy's office.

F. seCTer

Ms. Cowser reported that seCTer was still lending seCTer funds for loans; PTAP is working with EB on a large supplier event; and that the photo shoot of the region undertaken by seCTer will soon be completed.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District – no report.

H. SEAT

Mr. Carroll stated that all the new buses are now in service; SEAT ended the fiscal year with a balanced budget; and SEAT implemented some minor service adjustments this past month.

I. Regional Water Committee

Mr. Congdon stated that the WUCC Plan has been completed and approved. He mentioned the proposed regional waste water management plan; the Executive Director stated that consultant responses had been received for this project, which will be funded using OPM RSG funds.

J. Regional Emergency Planning Team

Mr. Sparkman, who chairs the REPT, said the REPT met at the SCCOG on September 5th, where they adopted their FY 2018 budget.

K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

Ms. Monahan reported that RHSCC members continue to work with the consultant on the Shared Human Services Study. She also said that energy assistance applications are now being received by TVCCA.

L. SE CT Cultural Coalition – no report.

10. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director stated that the SCCOG auditor would be conducting their on-site visit to the SCCOG in early October, and that the SCCOG has now implemented their two recommendations from last year's audit concerning financial reporting and use of direct deposit.

11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

None.

13. Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for October 17th.

14. Adjournment:

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Nickerson, Secretary