

MINUTES OF THE 1/16/19 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; Charles Grant, Franklin; Keith Hedrick, City of Groton; Todd Babbitt, Griswold; Tom Sparkman, Lisbon; Fred Allyn III, Ledyard; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Michael Passero, New London; Bob Congdon, Preston; Kevin Lyden, Salem; Jeff Callahan, Borough of Stonington; Dan Steward, Waterford. Council Alternates: John Burt, Town of Groton. Tribal Liaison: Robert Hayward, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation; Chuck Bunnell, Mohegan Tribe. Military Liaison: Adam Wright, U.S. Naval SUBASE; LT Tony Gregg, USCGA. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy. Other: Mike Carroll, Al Fritzsche, Cherise Perkins, SEAT; Jaroslaw Pizunski, Amalgamated Transit Union; Grayson Wright, CTDOT; Nancy Cowser, seCTer; Jen Granger, UCFS; Deb Monahan, TVCCA; Dina Sear Graves, United Way; Dominick Celtruda; John Prue, Town of Stonington; Merrill Gerber, Preston; Tom Kasprzac, Off Shore Wind Consultant; Cindy Barry, LLHD; two unknown people; 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 12/19/18:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 12/19/18 (McDaniel, Steward). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

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

6. Public Comment:

None.

7. Communications:

None.

8. Guest Speaker: Cindy Barry, Ledge Light Health District: re: Municipal Training for Tick Exposure

Ms. Barry outlined a LLHD and Uncas Health District joint initiative to conduct municipal team training to prevent occupational exposure to tick-borne diseases. She said that LLHD and Uncas HD are partnering with CT OSHA, to prepare towns for a required assessment of this issue. The training is scheduled for March 13, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and it will be held at the VNA office in Waterford. Ms. Barry said that towns should send a team of three to five employees who work in fields most at risk to exposure such as parks and recreation, public works, animal control, etc. In response to a question by Mr. Lyden, Ms. Barry said that the health districts were interested in developing common sense protocols for employees who might be at risk to tick-borne disease.

## 9. Committee and Liaison Reports

### A. Executive Committee

#### 1. FY 2018 TIP/STIP Amendments

The Chairman stated that this item would be taken up under New Business.

#### 2. Jefferson Avenue (New London) LOTCIP Project

The Executive Director explained that the project has increased in cost since the original application due to changes requested by CTDOT and the City's consulting engineer's response to address those requests. The new Preliminary Design is estimated to cost 14% more than New London's application estimate. He referred to a memo explaining these cost increases prepared by SCCOG Senior Planner Kate Rattan, which was contained in the agenda packet. He said that once this cost increase is approved by the SCCOG, CTDOT will issue the commitment to fund letter. He noted that CTDOT LOTCIP regulations do not require a cost estimate change at this, the preliminary design phase, to be approved by the SCCOG board, but he had informed the SCOG when we first started with LOTCIP, to do so. He said the Executive Committee has recommended approval of this increase.

MOTION: That the SCCOG approve of the cost increase from \$2,207,205 to \$2,515,600 (Congdon, Shilosky). So voted unanimously.

#### 3. State Pier Operator Selection

Mr. Passero briefed the SCCOG on the selection of the new operator for State Pier in New London, which was announced at a press conference last week. He expressed his concern that the operator of State Pier was chosen by the CT Port Authority without any input from New London, and noted that the operator pays no property taxes to the City. He said this is different than other State-owned properties not paying property taxes, because this property is being leased to an entity for commercial uses. He said that he hoped that new Governor Lamont

would become involved in the negotiation of this deal, but he recognizes that the CT Port Authority has already negotiated a contract with the selected operator, Gateway. In response to a question from Mr. Congdon as to what he was looking for from the SCCOG Mr. Congdon, Mr. Passero sated it would be good for the Governor to know that the SCCOG supports New London's position on this matter.

Discussion ensued as to what the SCCOG letter should state, and whether or not the SCCOG should send one or two letters to the Governor, as discussion points concerned two issues. It was agreed that one letter should be sent, which addressed the SCCOG's dismay that New London was not included in discussions concerning the use of State Pier and that the contract with Gateway does not recognize the impacts that the use of the pier will have on New London, and that the SCCOG supports the use of State Pier as a base for the future offshore wind energy which will have significant regional economic benefits, and that the Governor should make sure that the state, region, and city will fairly receive these benefits.

MOTION: To direct the Executive Director to draft a letter to Governor Lamont for the Chairman's signature which fully expresses the SCCOG's views made part of this discussion (Congdon, Hedrick). So voted unanimously.

#### 4. Other

The Executive Director stated these items were covered in the Executive Committee's written report contained in the agenda packet.

#### B. Legislative Committee/Legislative Update

No report.

#### C. Tribal Liaison Representatives

No report.

#### D. Military Command Representative

LT Gregg noted the impact on some Coast Guard employees that the ongoing federal government shutdown is having. He asked SCCOG chief elected officials to keep their eyes and ears open regarding furloughed Coast Guard employees living in their communities who may be struggling. Mr. Passero asked if there was any specific resources that SCCOG municipalities could provide. LT Gregg said the Master Chief at the Coast Guard Academy was the point of contact there who was assisting employees in need; he said he would email the Master Chief's name and contact information to the SCCOG Executive Director for forwarding to all SCCOG members.

E. Congressional Office Report

No report.

F. seCTer

Ms. Cowser reported that both seCTer and Untied Way would be eager to assist the Coast Guard employees in need at this time. She also offered for seCTer to write a letter in support of New London and the use of State Pier for the offshore wind industry. She reported on a May 29<sup>th</sup> major supplier event that seCTer's PTAC program is hosting; she reported that Santo Calvo is seCTer's new PTAC Director.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District

No report.

H. SEAT

Mr. Carroll stated that things were status quo at SEAT; announced that SEAT would participate in Transit Equity Day on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

I. Regional Water Committee

Mr. Congdon reported on a waste water meeting attended by representatives of several SCCOG towns and NPU held at the SCCOG office earlier this month.

J. Regional Emergency Planning Team

Mr. Sparkman reminded that FY 2018 homeland security MOAs and resolutions are past due to the SCCOG office, noting that five SCCOG member municipalities and the two tribal nations have not yet submitted their MOAs.

K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

Ms. Monahan stated that the RHSCC next meets on February 15<sup>th</sup>. She also asked that anyone who knew of furloughed federal employees in need to refer them to TVCCA, which has several programs that might be able to assist them.

L. SE CT Cultural Coalition

Ms. Cowser stated that Ms. Bury could not attend today, but planned to provide a full report to the SCCOG at the February meeting.

10. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director noted that earlier in the week, there was meeting of the region's DPW directors held at the office. He asked Mr. Babbitt to chair this group in his dual role as First Selectman and Griswold Public Works Director. Mr. Babbitt reported on the meeting, and stated that the next meeting has been scheduled for March 19th, and that Eversource will be invited to attend to discuss tree removal and response to downed power lines during and after storm events.

11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

A. FY 2018 STIP/TIP Amendments

- STPA, 0172-0471, Various, Districts 1&2, Replace Traffic Control Signals at 14 Locations, ROW, 2019, \$120,000, Change Description to 14 Locations.
- STPA, 0172-0471, Various, Districts 1&2, Replace Traffic Control Signals at 14 Locations, FD, 2019, \$282,000, Change Description to 14 Locations.
- STPA, 0172-0471, Various, Districts 1&2, Replace Traffic Control Signals at 14 Locations, CON, 2020, \$4,550,000, Change Description to 14 Locations.

MOTION: To approve of the proposed FY 2018 STIP/TIP amendments (McDaniel, Hedrick). So voted unanimously.

13. Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2019.

14. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:53 a.m. (Hedrick, Steward). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fred Allyn III, Secretary