

MINUTES OF THE 5/15/19 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; Timothy Sharkey, Jewett City; Fred Allyn, III, Ledyard; Tom Sparkman, Lisbon; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Mike Uργο, North Stonington; Bob Congdon, Preston; Kevin Lyden, Salem; Cathy Osten, Sprague; Rob Simmons, Town of Stonington; Dan Steward, Waterford. Council Alternates: John Burt, Town of Groton; Jim Rivers, Windham. Military Liaison: Adam Wright, U.S. Naval SUBASE. Tribal Liaison: Robert Hayward, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. Staff: James Butler, Kate Rattan. Other: Mike Carroll, Al Fritzsche, Cherise Perkins, SEAT; Nancy Cowser; seCTer; Ayanti Grant, Congressman Courtney's Office; Emily Boushee, Senator Murphy's office; Ellen Graham, Senator Blumenthal's office; Dominick Celtruda; Merrill Gerber, Preston; Catherine Young, CT Airport Authority; Grayson Wright, CTDOT; Tom Kazprzak; Patrick McCormack, Uncas Health District; Deb Monahan, TVCCA; Jen Granger, UCFS; Wendy Bury, SE CT Cultural Coalition; 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 the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Act on Minutes 4/17/19:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 4/17/19 (McDaniel, Lyden). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

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

6. Public Comment:

None.

7. Communications:

None.

8. Guest Speakers:

A. Patrick McCormack, Uncas Health District re: Health Enhancement Community Initiative

Mr. McCormack presented a Power Point presentation which introduced the Eastern CT Health Collaborative, formed in May 2017, and a state initiative called Health Enhancement Communities (HEC). The State's goal is to have established 8 – 12 HECs in the state; leaving the geography of the HECs up to the local community. After discussion, members of the SCCOG discussed with Mr. McCormack their views on the geography of an HEC in southeastern CT, with the consensus being an HEC should be coterminous with the regional boundary of the SCCOG, including the same municipalities. Chairman Sparkman urged Mr. McCormack to stay in touch with the SCCOG Executive Director on this subject, and to bring any recommendations from the health community and other stakeholders back to the SCCOG Executive Committee for discussion and a recommendation to the full SCCOG.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. Resolution No. 19-2, Relating to a FY 2018 EMPG HazMat Grant

The Executive Director explained the purpose of this grant, and stated that the Executive Committee had recommended its adoption.

MOTION: To adopt Resolution No. 19-2, Relating to a FY 2018 EMPG HazMat Grant (McDaniel, Urgo). So voted unanimously.

2. FY 2020 – 2021 Unified Planning Work Program

The Executive Director reported that the state's MPO Directors met with OPM Underscretary Harris and CTDOT leadership earlier this month to discuss CTDOT's unilateral proposal to reduce their match to 8% and thereby increase the MPO's match to 12%. CTDOT agreed to review their directive on this, but has not yet gotten back to the MPOs. He said he submitted SCCOG's draft UPWP with the historic 80/10/10 funding share. The Executive Committee recommended adoption of the draft UPWP in order to meet CTDOT's deadline for action, noting it can be revised later if the funding formula now being proposed by CTDOT is required.

MOTION: To adopt the FY 2020 – 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (Lyden, Congdon). So voted unanimously.

3. Proposal for Regional Foreign Trade Zone Designation

The Executive Director said that Mr. Passero had asked that this item be tabled to a future meeting.

MOTION: To table discussion of a proposal for a Regional Foreign Trade Zone Designation (Congdon, Hedrick). So voted unanimously.

4. Section 5310 Grant Applications

The Executive Director explained that the SCCOG received seven traditional and three non-traditional applications for Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities funding. Staff anticipates that that \$187,781 for the Norwich-New London Urban Area will be made available to the region, and SCCOG may have access to some of the \$193,946 in Small Urban and \$295,965 in Rural 5310 funds that are prioritized by CTDOT. Staff prepared a ranking sheet of Traditional and Non-Traditional projects that was the result of their evaluation of each application using a CTDOT provided evaluation form and metrics. Staff did contact CTDOT and asked if municipal applications could be prioritized higher by the SCCOG no matter their scoring/ranking in light of the fact that Easter Seals (#1 ranked) and The Arc (#3) had recently received vehicles through the SCCOG under this program and since they had greater resources than municipal senior centers, but CTDOT's response was that we must follow our own ranking based on their evaluation form. He referred to the staff ranking of the projects is included in the agenda packet which had a rank order and scoring for Traditional Project applications: 1. Easterseals (81); 2. East Lyme (78); 3. Arc (71); Lisbon (61); Lebanon (58); Griswold (54); Horizons (disqualified due to failure to publish legal ad by deadline); and for Non-Traditional Project applications: 1. ECTC Voucher Program (115); 2. ECTC Mobility Project (107); and 3. WRTD (105). The Executive Director reported that the Executive Committee recommended that the staff prioritization of projects be recommended by the full SCCOG to CTDOT.

MOTION: To recommend to CTDOT the staff recommended prioritization of Section 5310 grant applications (McDaniel, Steward). So voted unanimously.

5. FY 2019 STIP/TIP Amendments

The Executive Committee has recommended in favor of these amendments. Chairman Sparkman noted these will be taken up under New Business.

6. Other

The Executive Director reported that at their meeting earlier this month, the Executive Committee heard TAP Grant Application presentations from the five

municipalities which had applied for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant funding. Applications have been received for the following projects:

Bozrah - Fitchville Sidewalks, \$600,800 requested; \$751,000 total project cost.

Town of Groton - Connect G&S Trolley Trail to Thomas Road Shared Use Path, \$515,200 requested; \$644,000 total project cost.

New London - Williams Street Complete Street Improvements, \$874,105 requested; \$982,800 total project cost.

Norwich - New London Turnpike Complete Streets Improvements, \$786,240 requested; \$982,800 total project cost.

Town of Stonington - Sidewalk Gap Closure on Route 1 in Pawcatuck, \$727,040 requested; \$908,800 total project cost.

At that meeting, the Executive Committee asked that the staff technical review scoring sheet and the five applications be sent to them, and members expressed interest in visiting the locations of the five projects, so they did not take any action. The Executive Committee is now scheduled to discuss these again at their June meeting. The Executive Director also noted that CTDOT recently extended the deadline for MPO recommendations to September 30th, and notified the MPOs that they may compete for rural TAP funds if not first used by the state's two rural MPOs. He asked if the SCCOG, in light of this news, would like to re-issue the solicitation for projects in rural areas of southeastern Connecticut, in the event that some rural funds might be available. The consensus of SCCOG members present was to re-issue the solicitation to see if there were any additional projects in the region that might qualify for rural TAP funding.

B. Legislative Committee/Legislative Update

Senator Osten reported on a number of bills being considered by the General Assembly.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives

Mr. Hayward noted that MPTN Chairman Rodney Butler would be honored at the annual Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT on May 17th at Foxwoods.

D. Military Command Representative

Mr. Wright announced that Captain Todd Moore was installed as Commanding Officer of SUBASE New London on May 3rd; he said Captain Moore had a conflict preventing him from attending this morning's meeting.

E. Congressional Office Report

Ayanti Grant from Congressman Cortney's office, Emily Boushee from Senator Murphy's office, and Ellen Graham from Senator Blumenthal's office all made reports on the work of their congressional offices.

F. seCTer

Ms. Cowser stated that 250 businesses are registered to attend the May 29th major supplier event being held for EB.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District

No report.

H. SEAT

Mr. Carroll reported that SEAT is now on Google Transit; there will be no SEAT service on Memorial Day; and SEAT will participate this year in the statewide Transit Roadeo. He said he SEAT Board meeting would immediately follow the COG meeting.

I. Regional Water Committee

No report.

J. Regional Emergency Planning Team

No report.

K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

No report.

L. SE CT Cultural Coalition

Ms. Bury reported that her organization was hosting an economic development workshop on June 26th.

10. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director stated he had no additional report.

11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

A. FY 2018-2019 STIP/TIP Amendments

- CMAQ, 0170-3529, Statewide, Statewide Trans Demand Mgmt (Greater CT Moderate), OTH, 2019, \$1,985,000, New Project
- STPA, 0170-3545, District 1 & 2, Replace Highway Sheet Aluminum Signs, PD, 2019, \$130,000, New Project
- STPA, 0170-3545, District 1 & 2, Replace Highway Sheet Aluminum Signs, FD, 2020, \$30,000, New Project
- STPA, 0170-3545, District 1 & 2, Replace Highway Sheet Aluminum Signs, CON, 2020, \$4,000,000, New Project
- STPA, 0170-3532, Statewide, Highway Sign Inventory – Phase 2, PL, 2019, \$1,500,000, New Project

MOTION: To approve of the FY 2018-2019 STIP/TIP amendments (Osten, Steward). So voted unanimously.

13. Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for June 19th, 2019.

14. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:30 a.m. (Shilosky, McDaniel). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fred Allyn III, Secretary