

MINUTES OF THE 9 SEPTEMBER 2019
SCCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
SCCOG Office, Norwich, CT

Present: Tom Sparkman, Michael Passero, Fred Allyn III, Art Shilosky, Jim Rivers
Staff: James Butler

Chairman Sparkman opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m.

1. Resolution 19-4, Endorsement of Targets for Various Performance Measures Established by CTDOT

The Executive Director explained that this resolution endorses five safety targets established by CTDOT.

MOTION: To recommend to the full SCCOG approval of Resolution 19-4, Endorsement of Targets for Various Performance Measures Established by CTDOT (Allyn, Shilosky). So voted unanimously.

2. Request by LT Governor to Address SCCOG

The Executive Committee scheduled Lieutenant Governor Bysiewicz to address the SCCOG on September 18th.

3. Request by K. Budris to Address SCCOG

The Executive Committee scheduled Attorney Kevin Budris from the Conservation Law Foundation to address the SCCOG on September 18th.

4. Status of Regional Bike-Pedestrian Plan

The Executive Director advised the Executive Committee that this project is about four months behind schedule, and said that he and staff recently met with the consultant to encourage them to wrap up their work. Progress is now being made, and staff expects to have a revised draft plan and maps before the end of this month, and are hoping to have a draft for the SCCOG to review before the October SCCOG Board meeting; if received on time then the consultant would make a presentation to the Board at the October 16th meeting.

5. Status of JLUS Implementation Plan

The Executive Director provided an update on this project to the Executive Committee. The consultant working on Part 2 (regional component) of the project should have a draft for the JLUS Implementation Committee and the SCCOG to review before the October SCCOG Board meeting; if received on time then the consultant would make a presentation to the Board at the October 16th meeting.

6. Regional Ethics Commission Follow-Up

The Executive Director reminded that the Executive Committee had recently reviewed materials previously prepared on this subject after a SCCOG member had expressed interest in this topic. The Executive Committee had asked that this item be placed on the next SCCOG agenda, where questions were raised regarding its legality and concerning insurance. The Executive Director stated he found documentation that he had previously contacted the SCCOG's insurance carrier and had learned that no additional coverage would be required. He also had contacted OPM, sending along the legal opinion the SCCOG's attorney had provided several years ago, and OPM provided differing comments back. One was from OPM staff who works directly with COGs stating he did not think that the lack of statutory authorization would be an impediment, and one from OPM's Undersecretary for Legislative Affairs saying that state legislation would be required for a COG to establish a regional ethics commission. After discussing this, the Executive Committee decided to poll the SCCOG member municipalities of their interest in such a commission, but to do so after the November elections, as there will be CEO turnover in some SCCOG towns.

7. Regional Wastewater Management Plan Follow-Up

The Executive Director reminded that when it adopted the Regional Wastewater Management Plan earlier this summer, the SCCOG had agreed to establish a Regional Wastewater Management Committee. He said he had SCCOG Planner Sam Alexander prepare a whitepaper with Next Steps as recommended in the plan. He said he had asked Sprague First Selectman Cathy Osten if she would be willing to chair this committee and she said she would. The Executive Committee discussed this, and asked staff to bring back the establishment of a Regional Wastewater Management Committee after the November elections.

8. Regional Services Grant (RSG) Inquiry to OPM

The Executive Director said that he had sent a letter regarding the formula used to distribute FY 2019 RSG grants to the COGs as directed by the SCCOG, but had yet to receive a written reply. He said he had discussed this with Dan Morley at OPM, and more recently with Senator Osten, and they have advised that OPM is working with legislators to come up with a more equitable formula for next fiscal year, and the Senator informed him that such a formula would additionally compensate the COGs which did not receive merger bonus money this year.

9. OPM Request to Census Bureau re: County Equivalency for COGs

The Executive Director stated that OPM has now officially requested County Equivalency status for COGs in Connecticut from the Bureau of the Census, which should qualify COGs for federal grant funds for which they are now not eligible.

10. Proposed Reductions in Mailed SCCOG Agenda Packets

The Executive Director reported on the number of agenda packets mailed out every month, the cost involved, and the time it takes to do so. He said he would like to mail these packets only to

SCCOG CEOs and Managers, including the Tribal Affiliates and Military Liaison. All other could access the agendas and packets on the SCCOG web site. Discussion ensued and members present stated their support for this idea. Mr. Passero then suggested that no one receive a mailed package; rather this is a cost to him and he said he would rather have it downloaded and printed for him at City Hall. The Executive Committee asked that this be discussed by the Executive Director and members polled at the next SCCOG meeting.

11. Other

The Executive Director stated that Franklin First Selectman Charles Grant had met with him to discuss the need for legislation that would prohibit Boards of Education from overspending their budgets without first receiving approval from the town; he had noted that this happened in a number of towns around the region this year. Mr. Grant that legislation was introduced this year by Senator Osten, but it was not passed by the General Assembly. The Executive Committee asked that this item be placed on the Legislative Committee report section of the next SCCOG meeting agenda for discussion.

The Executive Director presented a memo and accompanying table prepared by SCCOG Planner Kate Rattan regarding the two TAP Rural grant applications received before the August 31st deadline. One was the previously submitted TAP application from Bozrah which has been deemed eligible for TAP rural funding, which would construct 3,700 LF of sidewalks on Fitchville Road, and the other from Sprague for 3,100 LF of sidewalks on Main Street. The Executive Committee discussed the two applications and staff's comments on both.

MOTION: To recommend that the SCCOG inform CTDOT that it endorses both TAP Rural projects with its priorities 1) Bozrah, Fitchville Sidewalks, \$600,800 requested; and 2) Sprague, Versailles Sidewalks, \$600,000 requested (Rivers, Shilosky). So voted unanimously.

The Executive Director stated that based on a comment made by a member at a recent Executive Committee meeting, he had begun to research sick leave buy-back policies, and he hoped to bring a suggestion for a SCCOG policy to the Executive Committee to consider in the next couple of months.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
James S. Butler, Executive Director