

MEETING NOTES OF 4/22/20 TELECONFERENCE OF THE  
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

PRESENT: Council Representatives: Mary Bylone, Colchester; Mark Nickerson, East Lyme; Charles Grant, Franklin; Keith Hedrick, City of Groton; Todd Babbitt, Griswold; Timothy Sharkey, Jewett City; Kevin Cwikla, Lebanon; Fred Allyn, III, Ledyard; Tom Sparkman, Lisbon; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Michael Passero, New London; Mike Urgo, North Stonington; Sandra Allyn Gauthier, Preston; Cheryl Blanchard, Sprague; Jeff Callahan, Borough of Stonington; Danielle Chesebrough, Town of Stonington; Rob Brule, Waterford. Council Alternates: John Burt, Town of Groton; John Salomone, Norwich. Military Liaison: Captain Todd Moore, Adam Wright, U.S. Naval SUBASE; RADM William Kelly, USCGA. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy. Other: Steve Mansfield, Ledge Light Health District; Patrick McCormack, Uncas Health District.

Chairman Nickerson called the teleconference to order at 8:33 a.m.

Mr. Mansfield reported on PPE distribution occurring at the Regional Distribution Site (RDS) at Mohegan Sun. This is going smoothly, and those receiving equipment are only taking what they immediately need.

Mr. McCormack reported on the circular letter to be released today by DPH concerning a limited opening of campgrounds. He stated that he and the SCCOG Executive Director were on a call last night with DPH and DECD where this was discussed. He expressed his concerns and those of Chief Elected Officials whose towns have campgrounds located within their boundaries.

The SCCOG Executive Director noted that the allowed opening was narrow in scope, and only applied to health care workers and other first responders, RV owners who own their own site at the campground, and RV owners who have a pre-existing reservation for this season for a stay of six months or more. He added that these campgrounds that do open have to apply a number of restrictions/conditions stated in the circular letter that will be released.

Mr. Mansfield stated that he had asked DPH who enforces the restrictions stated in the circular letter, and the response received was state and local law enforcement.

Mr. Mansfield commented on the need for increased testing and contact tracing, and commented on how COVID-19 cases are being reported.

The Chairman asked for any questions for Mr. Mansfield and Mr. McCormack. Mr. Wright asked if they had any information about modeling for New London County, and Mr. Mansfield responded he only sees what CDC publishes.

RADM Kelley asked if anyone had any information from the Governor's office about a timeline for opening up the state. Mr. Mansfield said he would pose that question to the Governor's office through an email address for questions like that.

RADM Kelly then reported on the USCGA's own discussions and planning for when the Academy could re-open. He said their schedule calls for a May 20<sup>th</sup> graduation of the senior class, and while that might not happen in person, he needs to le graduated seniors on campus at some point to pick up their clothes, gear, cars, etc. before they report to their assigned billet in the fleet. He said he is keeping Mayor Passero and Bob Ross up to date on this planning, and will continue to do so. He also mentioned that the new freshman class is scheduled to arrive at the Academy on June 29<sup>th</sup>, and while he does not see this happening on that date, when it does happen, it will impact local businesses like hotels and the like if families arrive with the incoming class.

Captain Moore said SUBASE remains fully mission critical. He reported on protocols for accessing the SUBASE, and stated that DOD had extended the date to travel to new duty posts to June 30.

Mr. Nickerson thanked RADM Kelly and Captain Moore for what they do for our region.

Mr. Nickerson called on the Executive Director, who reported on the Local Long-Term Recovery guidance originating in the Governor's office, which was sent yesterday by COST to its members. He stated that he believes that the state's COGs will have an important role in coordinating the work of these committees.

Mr. Brule reported on the number of COVID-19 cases at long-term health care facilities in Waterford.

At the request of Mr. Passero, Mr. Nickerson announced the parade of Frist Responders form throughout the region that will honor health care workers at 2:30 this afternoon at L&M Hospital in New London.

The teleconference concluded at 9:26 a.m.

*Note: The recording of this teleconference is posted on the SCCOG web site.*

Meeting Notes Taken By:

James S. Butler

Executive Director