

MEETING NOTES OF 4/29/20 TELECONFERENCE OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

PRESENT: Council Representatives: Mark Nickerson, East Lyme; 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; Mike Urgo, North Stonington; Sandra Allyn Gauthier, Preston; Kevin Lyden, Salem; 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. Tribal Representative: Rodney Butler, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. 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 8:34 a.m.

Mr. McCormack reported on COVID-19 cases in Uncas HD; testing at Backus Hospital; and expanded contract tracing.

Mr. Mansfield reported that caseloads are still increasing rapidly; National Guard to begin assisting at long-term care facilities; contract tracing, social distancing, and enforcement measures needed as weather gets better. He suggested the region prepare a collective plan to address this.

Mr. Nickerson said he thought that most towns were looking for recommendations and guidance from a higher authority.

The SCCOG Executive Director gave a reminder of Colchester First Selectman Bylone's request for information as to how the Governor's EOs are being enforced locally.

Mr. Urgo asked that any guidance prepared by the region regarding summer use of facilities recognize that not all towns have beaches, but do have trails and parks.

Mr. Salomone noted his concerns over what has been happening at the Norwich Golf Course. Mr. Burt then discussed the experience at Shennecossett Golf Course owned by the Town of Groton.

Mr. Allyn said that food trucks were becoming an issue.

Mr. Hedrick raised the fact that people are starting to come and will continue to come to the beaches in the area, and what the City of Groton might do to address and control the use of their beach.

Mr. Lyden said that we are the premier tourist region of the state.

Mr. Mansfield suggested that the SCCOG notify CT DPH what it would like to see happen, how the summer use of beaches and the like facilities should be managed. Mr. Nickerson he would work with Mr. Mansfield on drafting these ideas.

RADM Kelley reported on the USCGA's plans for the upcoming graduation; their Plan A is to hold the graduation virtually on May 20th, and their Plan B in light of the fact that West Point will be holding an actual graduation would be to do so themselves with possibly 250 persons on campus for graduation. He also reported on when this year's graduates might come to campus to pick up their belongings and that the incoming class of 2024 is scheduled to report the first week of July.

Captain Moore offered a DOD update around the state, including the use of the National Guard.

MPTN Chairman Butler said that the MPTN is working with the Mohegan Tribe on plans for re-opening of their respective casino properties. He also provided a report on the work of the Reopening CT Advisory Committee, which is working with the Boston Consulting Group for reopening businesses and facilities in our state. He noted that they are doing this while recognizing that 68% of employees in the state are currently working.

Mr. Brule suggested that any SCCOG messaging or plan regarding re-opening be done in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce.

The Executive Director reminded that there would be a webinar at 2:00 today concerning Long-Term Recovery Planning.

Mr. Allyn shared a fraud attempt his town experienced where a false invoice for PPE had been submitted. Ms. Chesebrough asked for a written summary of the details to share with her staff, and Mr. Allyn said he would send this to SCCOG staff for forwarding to all SCCOG CEOs.

The teleconference concluded at 9:20 a.m.

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

Meeting Notes Taken By:

James S. Butler

Executive Director