

MEETING NOTES OF 4/8/20 TELECONFERENCE OF THE  
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

PRESENT: Council Representatives: 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; 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. Military Liaison: Captain Todd Moore, Adam Wright, U.S. Naval SUBASE; RADM William Kelley, USCGA. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy. Other: Patrick McCormack, Uncas Health District.

Chairman Nickerson called the teleconference to order at 8:30 a.m.

Mr. McCormack provided updates on testing, data reports, and other pandemic response issues.

RADM Kelley reported on number of persons infected with the coronavirus on campus.

Captain Moore said SUBASE is also in a hunker down mode. He said they are implementing a DOD guideline that requires all personnel to carry a face mask which they put on their face if they come into six feet of another person.

The Executive Director provided three reminders: the Governor's Executive Orders require all public meetings are to be held remotely; per DEMHS Region 4 Coordinator Mike Caplet he asked if SCCOG towns wished to seek/contract for hotel rooms for first responders through the SCCOG; and he asked that towns be reminded to respond the transportation asset information which would be provided to the RESF 1 chair.

Discussion regarding regionally seeking and negotiating for hotel rooms took place. Mr. McCormack pointed out that motel rooms might be a better solution due to their individual entries. Mr. Wright said that the SUBASE had reached out to the CT Lodging Association. Mr. Passero reported on New London's experience where a hotel asked for a retainer, but then negotiation resulted in withdrawal of this requirement. Mr. Sparkman said he spoke with several fire chiefs who expressed disappointment that the NL County Fire Chiefs' Association had not coordinated an effort to secure hotel rooms for first responders. Mr. Brule asked if fees paid to reserve hotel rooms would be reimbursed by FEMA if the rooms were not used? After the discussion of this item, those present on the call agreed that individual municipalities have been and will continue to contact local hotels in and near their towns to secure these rooms.

Mr. Brule inquired what towns were doing to help their small businesses; he thanked Mr. Passero for sharing a paper reporting what New London was doing to assist businesses.

The Executive Director reminded that next week's call would be the SCCOG's monthly meeting; he asked for guidance for how to allow liaison agencies to report. Chairman Nickerson asked that these agencies be invited to submit written reports, which could be forwarded to COG members before the meeting.

The teleconference concluded at 9:27 a.m.

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

Meeting Notes Taken By:

James S. Butler

Executive Director