

MEETING NOTES OF 5/6/20 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; 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: Robert Hayward, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. Military Liaison: Captain Todd Moore, Adam Wright, U.S. Naval SUBASE; RADM William Kelly, LCDR Dan Stepler, USCGA. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy. Other: Steve Mansfield, Ledge Light Health District; Patrick McCormack, Uncas Health District; Mike Caplet, DEMHS Region 4; State Representative Holly Cheesman.

Chairman Nickerson called the teleconference to order at 8:32 a.m.

Mr. Mansfield reported on data; contract tracing; signage LLHD had prepared that could be used at beaches and parks in the region, saying these will be laminated and he could have them delivered to towns. Mr. Sparkman asked if the sign language was universal, noting his town does not have a beach. Mr. Mansfield said they might alter some signs to reflect this. He then stated that the Governor's announced May 20<sup>th</sup> date for re-opening the state has already raised a number of questions about details.

Mr. McCormack reported on COVID-19 cases in Uncas HD, and the cases at the Correctional Center in Montville.

Ms. Cheesman expressed frustration over lack of details forthcoming from the State, and over the lack of any health directors on the Governor's panel planning the state's re-opening.

Mr. Caplet provided a presentation on Long-Term Recovery, presenting a model that the State was advocating, noting how it would involve COGs and their municipalities. The Executive Director noted that the state's COG Directors would be discussing this approach in a conference call tomorrow. Mr. Burt asked who was the appointing authority for Local Recovery Coordinators and Committees, and Mr. Caplet responded that these could be executive appointments.

RADM Kelley reported on the USCGA's plans for re-opening the Academy, noting that they now do not plan to bring any students back in May, other than a few that have or will come to get their cars that have been left on campus.

Captain Moore stated the SUBASE is planning for resumption of activities on the Base, and that they plan to be consistent with the Governor's planned May 20<sup>th</sup> date

The Executive Director reported on five items: 1) Maryam Elahi from the Community Foundation has contacted him with an offer of masks to SCCOG towns with a minimum order of

25,000 as required by a private donor, each mask costing \$0.58, with the Community Foundation providing grants for the cost of these masks. 2) s requested by Ms. Chesebrough, SCCOG staff has surveyed SCCOG towns on their planned date for re-opening town hall and other municipal facilities, and that as of last night ten responses received which were emailed to all SCCOG members this morning, and then an additional three responses received which will be added to this spreadsheet. 3) Yesterday the Executive Committee set a new deadline of June 5<sup>th</sup> for receipt of LOTCIP grant applications, and an email announcing this has been sent to all SCCOG CEOs, Public Works Directors, and Planners. 4) The state's COG Directors have been invited to participate in a call Friday at 9:00 a.m. with CT DEEP Commissioner Dykes to discuss when and how beaches might be open this summer; interested municipal CEOs are invited to be on this call and he will forward the information for calling in. 5) During this meeting, he has received an email from Ms. Chesebrough proposing a letter be sent to the Governor concerning the planned opening of restaurants; he then asked Ms. Chesebrough to present her proposed letter to the SCCOG.

Ms. Chesebrough then outlined her draft letter, which would ask the Governor to allow limited indoor seating at restaurants with conditions at the same time the State will be allowing restaurants to open with outdoor seating. Staff was asked to forward Ms. Chesebrough's draft letter to all SCCOG members for review and to let him know if they wished to have their name and town included on this request to the Governor.

Mr. Urgo asked if anyone has heard of any guidance concerning the potential for summer school this year. Mr. McCormack reported what he knows about summer camps, but said he anticipates that summer school guidance would be issued by the State Department of Education.

Discussion then returned to the Community Foundation's offer to provide masks. Several questions were posed including: Can the request for masks be coordinated through SCCOG staff? What kind of masks were being offered? Could the masks be brought to and distributed from the Mohegan Sun, which is already serving as the regional Point of Distribution for PPE? How would the towns be invoiced/apply for Community Foundation grants to pay for the masks. The Executive Director said he would communicate these questions to Ms. Elahi.

Mr. Allyn commented upon the importance of summer camps in his own and other towns; he said the guidance issued so far does not work well for summer camps.

Mr. Mansfield said the type of masks being offered by the CF donor does make a difference. He said that the LLHD recently purchased two boxes of 50 KN95 masks each box for only \$11.

The teleconference concluded at 9:43 a.m.

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

Meeting Notes Taken By:

James S. Butler  
Executive Director