

MEETING NOTES OF 6/3/20 TELECONFERENCE OF THE  
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

PRESENT: Mark Nickerson, East Lyme; Todd Babbitt, Griswold; Tim Sharkey, Borough of Jewett City; 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 Wight, U.S. Naval SUBASE; RADM William Kelly, USCGA. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy, Wendy Leclair. Other: Patrick McCormack, Uncas Health District.

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

Mr. McCormack thanked the COG for allowing him and Steve Mansfield of LLHD to communicate to and coordinate with the COG on a regular basis during this health emergency. He reported on data cases; reminded that Steve Mansfield now represented health districts in the State's re-opening discussions; and discussed a possible spike of infections in the fall.

RADM Kelly said that the USCGA had received the green light from the State last week to bring graduated seniors back next week, where they will remain on campus for two weeks, be tested, and then be deployed to their assignments in the fleet; two more classes will report to the Academy on June 20 and 21, and then Day 1 for the entering class of 2024 will be July 8, with that group of 270 arriving at spaced intervals with no more than two family members accompanying them.

Captain Moore reported that the Navy's Stop Movement order was expected to end on June 30. He said that personnel will then travel to new duty stations in July and August. He concluded by stating that the Nautilus Museum expects to open to the public on July 1.

Mr. Nickerson said he had received a comment via the chat function which he directed to Mr. McCormack: It would be great if school districts could hold in-person graduations outdoors in the coming weeks. Mr. McCormack responded that he would have this discussion with Mr. Mansfield, local school superintendents, and would pass along the comment and seek additional guidance from the State.

Mr. Sparkman asked about any additional guidance that might be forthcoming regarding senior citizens.

Mr. McCormack said that there has been none yet. He said that June 20, and the beginning of Phase 2, seemed to be the date that everyone was looking toward.

Mr. Nickerson raised the issue of the State's request that municipalities designate a position for enforcement of the rules and adherence to guidance during the pandemic. He asked what other towns are doing.

Mr. Allyn stated Ledyard has named their Emergency Services Director to this role.

Mr. Urgo said that North Stonington has not made an appointment.

Mr. Sparkman stated that in Lisbon, complaints will be addressed by the First Selectman's office.

Mr. Brule stated that Waterford has designated the Chief of Police.

Mr. Brule then suggested a letter be sent to the State from the SCCOG or SCCOG towns supporting the conduct of outdoor graduations in a safe way.

Mr. Nickerson said he would agree with a regional plan that addressed this, working within State and federal guidelines.

Mr. McCormack referenced a communication he was recently sent a copy of from the Commissioner of Education, which led him to believe the State will be providing additional guidance concerning graduations in the near future.

Mr. Brule said he would draft a letter on this subject and would send the draft to the Chairman and Executive Director for sharing with all SCCOG members.

The Chairman then called on Bob Hayward from the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. Mr. Hayward reported on the MPTN's re-opening of Foxwoods this past Monday. Mr. Nickerson congratulated the Tribe for this successful re-opening and for doing it in a safe way.

The Chairman then asked the Executive Director to report. Mr. Butler reminded that he needed to collect and send to the State the names and contact information for the designated Local Long-Term Recovery Coordinators. He also stated that there will be a teleconference next Thursday, at 4:00 p.m., where the roles and framework for the Regional Resource Recovery Steering Committees will be the topic; he said he will send out the information for participating to all SCCOG members.

Mr. Salomone reported on the protest demonstration held yesterday evening in Norwich. He said he knew of at least two additional demonstrations scheduled in Norwich, and possibly others in the region. He said he brought up this topic due to the impact that these protests have on municipal resources.

Mr. Nickerson stated that the next weekly call will be on June 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:30, followed by the public meeting on the SCCOG's transportation planning process at 9:00 a.m., with the public, FHWA, and FTA participating.

The teleconference concluded at 9:25 a.m.

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

Meeting Notes Taken By:

James S. Butler, Executive Director