

MINUTES OF 1/15/20 MEETING OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
SCCOG OFFICE, NORWICH, CT

PRESENT: Council Representatives: Carl Zorn, Bozrah; Mark Nickerson, East Lyme; Charles Grant, Franklin; Todd Babbitt, Griswold; Keith Hedrick, City of Groton; Timothy Sharkey, Jewett City; Kevin Cwikla, Lebanon; Fred Allyn, III, Ledyard; Tom Sparkman, Lisbon; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Mike Uργο, North Stonington; Sandra Allyn-Gauthier, Preston; Kevin Lyden, Salem; Cheryl Allen Blanchard, Sprague; Jeff Callahan, Borough of Stonington; Danielle Chesebrough, Town of Stonington; Rob Brule, Waterford. Council Alternates: John Burt, Town of Groton; John Salamone, Norwich; Jim Rivers, Windham. Tribal Liaison: Robert Hayward, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. Military Liaison: Captain Todd Moore, Adam Wright, U.S. Naval SUBASE; LCDR Daniel Stepler, USCGA. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy, Sam Alexander. Other: Mike Carroll, Al Fritzsche, Cherise Perkins, Jamie Bohli, SEAT; Terry Jackman, Eversource; Ayanti Grant, Congressman Courtney's office; Deb Monahan, TVCCA; Wendy Bury, SE CT Cultural Coalition; Kevin Cunningham, Town of Plainfield First Selectman; Grayson Wright, CTDOT; Catherine Young, CAA; Mike Caplet, DEMHS Region 4; Mary Ann Chinatti, Tyra Penn, Tim Myjak, Eastern CT Land Bank; Dominick Celtruda; one reporter.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Nickerson called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3. Pledge of Allegiance: The Chairman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairman then presented immediate past Chairman Tom Sparkman a plaque, thanking him for his service to the SCCOG. Members of the SCCOG showed their appreciation by giving Mr. Sparkman a standing ovation. Mr. Sparkman said it was an honor to have chaired the SCCOG

4. Act on Minutes 12/18/19:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 12/18/19 (McDaniel, Grant). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

MOTION: To approve the January Treasurer's Report (Lyden, McDaniel). So voted unanimously.

6. Public Comment:

None.

7. Communications:

At the Chairman's request, the Executive Director summarized his 12/13/19 letter to OPM Secretary McCaw, in which he responded to her request for the state's COGs to evaluate the regionalization of two local government services, and to suggest to her three opportunities for future regionalization.

8. Guest Speaker: Mary Ann Chinatti, Tyra Penn, and Tim Myjak re: Eastern CT Land Bank

The three speakers addressed the COG using a PowerPoint presentation, describing the work of the Eastern CT Land Bank. The Land Bank's mission is to partner with municipalities in eastern Connecticut to return blighted and brownfield properties to productive use. They are working on obtaining certification from DECD. One of their next steps is to meet individually with municipalities, and they said they are actively seeking participation by southeastern Connecticut towns.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. Amendment to Public Participation Consultation Process for Transportation Planning

The Executive Director explained that the proposed amendments to this document were recommended by CTDOT as part of their Title VI review of SCCOG's transportation planning process. Staff advertised the proposed revisions which involved changes to the section concerning Limited-English-Proficiency populations and Environmental Justice, and no comments were received. He said the Executive Committee had voted to recommend the amendments.

MOTION: To approve of the amendment to SCCOG's Public Participation Consultation Process for Transportation Planning (Sparkman, McDaniel). So voted unanimously.

2. Resolution No. 20-1, Relating to Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant Applications

The Executive Director said that this resolution will authorize the SCCOG to make application for, accept and execute grant funds under the Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP). Staff submitted these applications before OPM's December 31 deadline. The applications would fund pilot demonstrations for a Regional Code Enforcement Official; a Regional Grant Writer; and a Regional Human Resources position.

MOTION: To approve Resolution No. 20-1, Relating to Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant Applications (McDaniel, Grant).

Both Mr. McDaniel and Mr. Grant said that their respective legislative bodies had discussed the municipal resolutions of support being requested for these grant applications, and they were both enthusiastic about these proposed regional positions. The motion was then voted on and approved unanimously.

3. Resolution No. 20-2, Relating to a Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant Application Submitted on Behalf of State's COGs by WESTCOG

The Executive Director explained that WESTCOG had submitted a RPIP grant application on behalf of the state's nine Councils of Government for funding to conduct a statewide municipal boundary survey. He said the Executive Committee recommended in favor of supporting this grant application.

MOTION: To approve Resolution No. 20-2, Relating to a Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant Application Submitted on Behalf of State's COGs by WESTCOG (Sparkman, Urgo).

Under discussion, members questioned what was being surveyed and what class of survey would be conducted. The Executive Director responded that the state's 169 municipal boundaries would be the subject of this project, and that the class of the survey being proposed is Class D. The motion was then voted on and approved unanimously.

4. 2018 STIP/TIP Amendments

The Chairman stated these would be taken up later on the agenda under New Business.

B. Legislative Committee/Legislative Update

Mr. Grant reported that the Legislative Committee had met on January 9th. The committee was made up of himself, Sandra Allyn-Gauthier, Danielle Chesbrough, Mike Urgo, and Keith Hedrick. He summarized the proposed Legislative Agenda, which the Legislative Committee is recommending be succinct and specific. He said a meeting to present the Legislative Agenda to the delegation has been scheduled for Friday, January 17th, at 8:30 a.m., at the SCCOG office.

MOTION: To adopt the SCCOG Legislative Agenda for the 2020 session as recommended by the SCCOG Legislative Committee (Lyden, McDaniel).

Discussion took place. Mr. Lyden referenced a 2006 US Supreme Court decision regarding special education funding. Mr. Urgo said he liked what the Legislative

Committee did, saying it was important that our agenda be stated with a powerful voice, and that the SCCOG be unified in what we ask for. Mr. Allyn said he liked that the agenda has a lot of specificity. Mr. Hayward inquired as to whether or not the legislative agenda should include an ask for an increase in the distribution by the State of Mashantucket Pequot funds to southeastern Connecticut municipalities, as had been recommended by MPTN Chairman Rodney Butler at the SCCOG Annual Meeting. Mr. Grant responded that the Legislative Committee had discussed this, but decided not to include it in the SCCOG agenda, because it would only impact a small number of SCCOG member municipalities. The motion was then voted on and approved unanimously.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives

No report.

D. Military Command Representative

Captain Moore stated that the Navy is conducting a study as to where on the east coast a fleet of unmanned undersea vehicles might be best homeported, and he said that he believes the SUBASE would be a good place to locate this fleet. He said as a follow-up to the recently completed JLUS Implementation project, a meeting was being held to discuss the Columbia crew housing issue; and he said that next week both the Governor and the Commander of the Submarine Force would be visiting the SUBASE.

LCDR Stepler reminded that SCCOG CEOs had been invited to attend a celebration of Martin Luther King at the Coast Guard Academy on January 22nd; the public is also welcome.

E. Congressional Office Report

Ms. Grant reported that the new staff in Congressman Courtney's district office would be scheduling meetings with the region's Chief Elected Officials.

F. seCTer

The Executive Director stated that Ms. Cowser had emailed him this morning to say she was unable to attend.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District

The Executive Director reported that two Eastern CT Tourism District Board meetings and three ad hoc committee meetings were hosted by the SCCOG at the end of December and early January. These meetings were intended to produce a response to the State's Office of Tourism Notice of Breach of Contract, which he submitted to the State before their deadline. He said the only information that still needs to be submitted is financial information including an audit which was

just transmitted by the ERTD auditor today. That information will be forwarded to the State by the new nine member Interim Executive Committee which was appointed at the last meeting of the District's Board.

H. SEAT

Mr. Carroll stated ridership continues to increase with the exception of December, which might have been impacted by several snow events; five replacement buses have been received; and reminded that the Board would be meeting immediately following the SCCOG meeting.

I. Regional Water Committee

No report.

J. Regional Emergency Planning Team

Mr. Sparkman reminded that the FY 2019 MOAs and resolutions were due back to SCCOG on January 8th. Mr. Caplet stated that any new CEO that needs to learn more about the funding program these MOAs authorize, should contact him or the SCCOG Executive Director.

K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

Ms. Monahan reported that as recommended in the 2018 SCCOG Human Service Agency Shared Services Study, the RHSCC was surveying its members to see where there is capacity and need for sharing of services by and between RHSCC members.

L. SE CT Cultural Coalition

Mr. Bury reported on an event that the Cultural Coalition is planning to highlight the impact that arts and culture have on the region.

10. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director reminded that he had emailed all SCCOG CEOs a model resolution supporting the SCCOG RPIP grant applications, as OPM requires a resolution from each COG member municipality which might benefit from a grant award. These are due to OPM on February 28.

The Executive Director reported that he had learned yesterday at a CTCOG meeting that RiverCOG had been the subject of a cyber-attack requiring them to pay a ransom to free up their files and a lot of money to then restore their computer and digitized files. He said he was investigating any steps the SCCOG needs to take to both prevent

such an attack, and to make sure that our insurance coverage is adequate should this happen to us.

11. Old Business

Mr. Callahan asked a question about when the Census will begin and members responded in April.

12. New Business

A. FY 2018 STIP/TIP Amendments

- STPA, 0172-0496, Various, District 2, Replace Traffic Control Signals at Various Locations, **PD, 2020**, \$500,000
- STPA, 0172-0496, Various, District 2, Replace Traffic Control Signals at Various Locations, **FD, 2021**, \$591,000
- STPA, 0172-0496, Various, District 2, Replace Traffic Control Signals at Various Locations, **ROW, 2021**, \$160,000
- STPA, 0172-0496, Various, District 2, Replace Traffic Control Signals at Various Locations, **CON, FYI**, \$7,600,000

MOTION: To approve of the FY 2018 STIP/TIP Amendments (Sparkman, McDaniel). So voted unanimously.

13. Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2020.

14. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:37 a.m. (Sparkman, McDaniel). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Hedrick, Secretary