

MINUTES OF 5/27/20 MEETING OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
HELD VIA ZOOM

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; 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 Liaison: None. Military Liaison: Adam Wright, U.S. Naval SUBASE; RADM William Kelly, USCGA. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan, Liz Crutcher. Other: Patrick McCormack, Uncas Health District; Steve Mansfield, Ledge Light Health District; Mike Carroll, Al Fritsche, Cherise Perkins, SEAT; Ayanti Grant, Congressman Courtney's Office; Kay Munoz, Senator Murphy's Office; Ellen Graham, Senator Blumenthal's office; Grayson Wright, CTDOT; Kurt Salmoiraghi, Jennifer Carrier, FHWA; Leah Sirmin, FTA; Deb Monahan, TVCCA; Nancy Cowser, seCTer; Wendy Bury, SE CT Cultural Coalition; Theresa Jackman, Eversource; Randy Collins, CCM; Mike Fisher; Deb Denfeld; Dominick Celtruda; one reporter.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Nickerson opened the meeting at 8:34 a.m.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3. Pledge of Allegiance: The Chairman said we would dispense with the Pledge today.
4. Act on Minutes of 4/15/20:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 4/15/20 (Sparkman, Grant). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

MOTION: To approve the May Treasurer's Report (Grant, Hedrick). So voted unanimously.

6. Public Comment:

Ms. Jackman reported on Eversource emergency procedures that are in place at this time.

7. Guest Speakers:

- A. Sue Larsen, Registrar of Voters Association of CT – Ms. Larsen was not on the call.
- B. Kurt Salmoiraghi, FHWA – Mr. Salmoiraghi spoke to a Power Point presentation that outlined SCCOG’s upcoming TMA review process. A public meeting on the SCCOG’s process has been scheduled for June 10th, at 9:00 a.m.

8. Committee and Liaison Reports:

A. Executive Committee

1. LOTCIP 2020 Solicitation

The Executive Director reported that the Executive Committee had previously extended the deadline for LOTCIP grant applications to June 5th. Those municipalities that have previously submitted need not re-submit a new application.

2. 2020 Solicitation for Section 5310 Applications

The Executive Director stated that he had discussed with the Executive Committee the June 26th deadline that CTDOT has set for applications for Section 5310 funding. The Solicitation for this funding was sent directly by CTDOT to towns. Once copies are received by SCCOG staff, they will develop a rubric for comparing these applications and will so advise the SCCOG of their findings, at either the July or August meeting.

3. Executive Committee Approval of Annual HAZ MAT Grant Application

The Executive Director reported that the Executive Committee approved of staff’s submission of this application on behalf of the region’s HAZ MAT team. Which has been done annually for some time now.

9. Executive Director’s Report:

The Executive Director reported on four items: the masks offered through the Community Foundation have been ordered, he has emailed each town ordering the COG’s invoice with their share; he reminded of his request for the naming of Local Long-Term Recovery Coordinators; he discussed the issue of how staff time spent on COVID-19 response and

recovery will be billed, as DEMHS has said this cannot be billed to DEMHS, and OPM recently informed the COGs it cannot be billed against their Regional Service Grants; he said he and staff have developed and continue to refine plans for re-opening the SCCOG office.

10. Old Business:

A. COVID 19 Response Discussion

Mr. McCormack reported on cases in his district; testing; graduation plans; summer school; return to school planning for the fall; outdoor dining; and contact tracing.

Mr. Mansfield stated he has been added, with other health directors, to the State's re-opening committee; activities expected to be allowed under the June 20 Phase 2 re-opening; and cases in the LLHD.

Mr. Brule asked who to contact regarding long-term care facilities.

Connie Hilbert, Director of Health and Human Services for the Mohegan Tribe, and the Tribe's Director of Health, reported on actions taken and planned to re-open their casino safely.

Mr. Urgo stated he has asked LLHD to develop a simple document with recommendations on the use of masks.

Mr. Mansfield said they were doing so, and that there were still available about 30 signs for use at parks and beaches if towns wanted additional signs.

Ms. Cowser reported that seCTer was receiving resources from EDA to assist in economic activity, and additional loan funds for businesses.

Ms. Grant said her office has prepared a report on the HEROES Act, and will email it to SCCOG staff for distribution once she receives some additional information she has requested.

11. New Business

A. FY 2018 STIP/TIP Amendments

- 0101-0117, North Stonington, Replace BR 02967 o/Wyassup Brook, \$2.4M

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

12. Next Meeting: The Chairman noted the SCCOG will hold a weekly teleconference next Wednesday, June 3, and that the next regular meeting is scheduled for June 17th.

13. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:31 a.m. (Sparkman, Grant). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Hedrick, Secretary