

MINUTES OF 6/17/20 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; 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: Chuck Bunnell, Mohegan Tribe. Military Liaison: Captain Todd Moore, Adam Wright, U.S. Naval SUBASE; LCDR Daniel Stepler, USCGA. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan, Wendy Leclair. Other: Patrick McCormack, Uncas Health District; Steve Mansfield, Ledge Light Health District; Mike Carroll, Al Fritsche, Cherise Perkins, SEAT; Jerry Pizunski, Amalgamated Transit Union; Ellen Graham, Senator Blumenthal's office; Brianna DeVivo, Senator Murphy's Office; Grayson Wright, CTDOT; Nancy Cowser, seCTer; Wendy Bury, SE CT Cultural Coalition; Theresa Jackman, Eversource; Sue Larsen, CT Registrar of Voters Association; Steve Farrelly, DRVN Enterprises; Dominick Celtruda; one reporter.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Nickerson opened the meeting at 8:32 a.m.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3. Act on Minutes of 5/27/20:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 5/27/20 (Allyn, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report:

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

5. Public Comment:

Ms. Jackman reported on Eversource staff working remotely; current billing practice; and programs to protect customers.

6. Guest Speakers:

A) Sue Larsen, CT Registrar of Voters Association

Ms. Larsen said her organization had received a grant from the Secretary of State to make sure all towns are using WINDOWS 10, and that scanners can be purchased with 50% reimbursement. She addressed mail-in balloting; purchase of PPE for each polling place; absentee ballot process; drop-in mailboxes for elections; safe distancing at polls, etc.

B) Steve Farrelly, DRVN Enterprises

Mr. Farrelly said his business was established in 1999 and in 2013, he began distributing salt from State Pier in New London. He described the CT Port Authority RFP process for use of State Pier, and stated that the wind industry has now been given exclusive use of State Pier requiring his re-location by July 31. He said he is looking for ideas/suggestions as to how to relocate the 90,000 tons of inventory now stored at State Pier. Mr. Sparkman asked if State Pier is the only location that DRVN can continue to operate their salt distribution business from and Mr. Farrelly responded in the affirmative. Additional discussion ensued. It was the consensus of the SCCOG that staff would write a letter to CTDEEP expressing SCCOG support for Mr. Farrelly's business which provides salt to many towns in this region, and to ask DEEP to assist Mr. Farrelly as his is a water-dependent business, with State Pier being his best location to operate from due to how his product is delivered.

7. Committee and Liaison Reports:

A. Executive Committee

1. LOTCIP 2020 Solicitation

The Executive Director reported that eight applications for LOTCIP funding had been received by the June 5th deadline. He said that SCCOG staff would now review these applications and provide the Executive Committee with information that would allow them to prioritize these at their July meeting.

2. TMA Certification Review Update

The Executive Director reported on the three two-hour sessions staff had with FHWA and FTA officials last week, which is part of the quadrennial review of SCCOG's transportation planning program. He reminded the Executive Committee of the Public Meeting on this process tomorrow at 9:00 a.m.

3. Funding for COG Work in COVID-Response/Recovery Update

The Executive Director reported that the 9 COGs in the state had been encouraged by OPM to submit a joint application for CARES Act funding to cover COVID related costs incurred from March 1 through December 31, and to also submit an application to the State that will be part of a State application to EDA for funds to cover COVID Recovery work for the two-year period January 1 2021 through December 31 2022. He said he is working on the first part and will have that ready for submission on Friday.

4. SCCOG Municipal/Regional Long-Term Recovery Update

The Executive Director reported that the 18-person DEMHS Region 4 Long-Term Recovery Steering Committee has been named, and will now have three co-chairs. He said that a teleconference was held earlier this month, at which Lisa Tepper Bates provided the framework for and details of how these Recovery Steering Committees will work.

8. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director reported that the masks ordered by several of the region's municipalities had been delivered and picked-up by the requesting towns. He thanked the City of New London Fire Department for stepping up to accept and store the delivery, and for the on-duty firefighters that assisted in loading these into the municipal vehicles sent to pick their orders up.

The Executive Director reported on the phased dates for re-opening the SCCOG office to staff, and the safety/health precautions and protocols which have/will be taken to keep employees safe.

9. Old Business

It was agreed that the SCCOG weekly calls would be rescheduled to bi-weekly for now.

Mr. Urgo suggested that SCCOG members express their support for the wearing of masks in a press release. Mr. McCormack supported this proposal and said this will express support for local businesses.

Mr. Mansfield reported that cases in the region were declining.

10. New Business

A. FY 2020 Budget Amendment

The Executive Director stated that the SCCOG typically amends its budget at the end of the fiscal year due to the fact that all revenue sources are not known when the budget is drafted 18 months before the end of the fiscal year, and due to unforeseen necessary expenditures. He then summarized the proposed amendments.

MOTION: To approve of the proposed FY 2020 Budget amendments (Sparkman, Grant). So voted unanimously.

11. Next Meeting: Wednesday, July15, 2020

12. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:44 a.m. (Grant, McDaniel). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Hedrick, Secretary