

MINUTES OF 1/20/21 MEETING OF THE  
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
HELD VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Mark Nickerson, East Lyme; Charles Grant, Franklin; Todd Babbitt, Griswold; Keith Hedrick, City of Groton; 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 Dan Stepler, Cadet FC Lindsey Tarro, USCGA. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan. Other: Deborah Monahan, TVCCA; Mike Carroll, Cherise Perkins, SEAT; Grayson Wright, CTDOT; Erik Shortell, FHWA; Brianna DeVivo, Senator Murphy's office; Ellen Graham, Senator Blumenthal's office; Representative Doug Dubitsky; Nancy Cowser, Sheri Cote, seCTer; Wendy Bury, SE CT Cultural Coalition; Catherine Young, CAA; Steve Mansfield, Ledge Light Health District; Dominick Celtruda; D. Denfeld.

1. Call to Order: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3. Act on Minutes of 12/16/20 and Special Meeting Minutes of 12/22/20:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 12/16/20 and 12/22/20 (Grant, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report:

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

5. Communications: None.
6. Public Comment: None.
7. COVID-19 Response Discussion:

Mr. Mansfield reported on the vaccination rollout, calling it a whole new job for local health departments. He stated there have been issues that have hindered the effort, including the VAMS online registration system which health directors have urged the State to abandon, and the lack of vaccines.

The Executive Director commended Mr. Mansfield, Ledge Light Health District staff, and volunteers for the conduct of their vaccination clinic, noting his positive experience in assisting his 90-year old Mother with her vaccination last Friday. He also stated that the Uncas Health District recently stored PPE in the SCCOG warehouse, and offered to do the same for LLHD.

## 8. Committee and Liaison Reports:

### A. Executive Committee

#### 1) DEMHS Region 4 Regional Recovery Steering Committee – Update

The Executive Director reported that this week and next, the Regional Recovery Steering Committee and three Working Groups will meet to discuss and begin the process and schedule for rolling out the Unmet Needs collection effort that the State has asked the COGs to participate in.

He then stated that last month he announced that the EDA grant application submitted by the State and the state's nine Councils of Government had been denied. The State has decided not to appeal the denial, but to instead apply for EDA non-competitive grants for the six COG regions who's Economic Development Districts had not previously received such grants. He said that seCTer had been invited to apply and receive one of these grants this past spring, making SCCOG ineligible for this source of funding. He said that at the request of Mary Glassman, who was heading up the State's COVID response out of the Governor's office, he recently participated in a Zoom meeting along with Ms. Glassman, DECD Deputy Commissioner Alexandra Daum, seCTer Chairman Mark Oefinger, and seCTer Executive Director Nancy Cowser to discuss how the two agencies might best work together and to identify any funding that could be directed to the SCCOG.

The upshot of the meeting was that seCTer pledged to work with SCCOG, but could not make any funding available to it because it had to use that funding to fulfill their contractual obligations to EDA. The Executive Director stated that Ms. Glassman has promised to search for funding for SCCOG and the other two COGs precluded from receiving these EDA grants, but at this time that funding has not been identified.

#### 2) JLUS Parking Management Plan - Update

The Executive Director reported that the SCCOG's consultant Kimley-Horn is still collecting information for the study. He said that it is expected that the consultant will have materials available for the study steering committee to review in mid-February. He said that the consultant now has established the project website, and that this will allow the beginning of a major public outreach effort in March.

#### 3) Draft Regional Transportation Safety Plan for SECT Region

The Executive Director provided background on this plan, which had previously been emailed to all members of the SCCOG and which had been prepared with SCCOG member municipality input. He said the plan was prepared for the region by VN Engineers under contract to CTDOT. He noted that the plan was very comprehensive, but that COGs in the state have expressed concern over a number of requirements including that the plan must be updated every five years, that it is an unfunded mandate, and that the 15% reduction in injury/fatalities goal may be unachievable. The Executive Director said that to address some of these concerns, he had provided draft language for a motion that the Executive Committee might consider, and they adopted this motion recommending adoption of the Plan by the SCCOG.

MOTION: The SCCOG adopts the “Regional Transportation Safety Plan, Southeastern Region, Connecticut” prepared in 2020 by VN Engineers under contract with CTDOT, with the understanding that the SCCOG’s commitment to provide oversight, annually report progress to CTDOT, and update the Plan every five years will require additional financial support from the State as was provided for the funding of this initial Plan. (Sparkman, Grant). So voted unanimously.

4) Resolution No. 21-1 For Endorsement of Targets for Safety Performance Measures Established by CTDOT

The Executive Director provided background on the proposed safety targets and the process the State used to establish them. He stated that the Executive Committee has recommended that the full SCCOG adopt this resolution.

MOTION: The SCCOG adopts Resolution No. 21-1 For Endorsement of Targets for Safety Performance Measures Established by CTDOT (Sparkman, Nickerson). So voted unanimously.

5) Other – None.

B. Legislative Committee/Legislative Agenda Discussion – Mr. Grant stated that the draft Legislative Agenda prepared by his committee had been sent to all members in the agenda packet. He asked if there were any questions or comments and there were none.

MOTION: To adopt the 2021 SCCOG Legislative Agenda as drafted (Burt, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

Mr. Grant thanked the members of the SCCOG Legislative Committee.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives – Mr. Bunnell reported on Tribal vaccinations. He thanked Mayor McDaniel and Mayor Nystrom who wrote a letter of support for the

Tribes in their pursuit of online gaming. Mayor Allyn stated that the Ledyard Town Council had approved of a resolution also supporting the Tribes efforts in this regard.

The Executive Director noted that he had just received the draft of the new bill proposed to address this issue, and would make sure the newly adopted Legislative Agenda included the correct bill number.

D. Military Command Representatives

Captain Moore reported on the vaccination process at the SUBASE.

LCDR Stepler reported on vaccinations at the Coast Guard Academy.

The Executive Director reported on and thanked LCDR Stepler for placement of Cadet First Class Lindsey Tarro as an intern at the SCCOG for this semester; Ms. Tarro will assist with the staff's work on COVID-19 response.

E. Congressional Office Report

Ms. Graham from Senator Blumenthal's office and Ms. DeVivo from Senator Murphy' office both commented upon their office's anticipated work with the new Presidential administration.

F. seCTer

Ms. Cowser thanked the SCCOG Executive Director for involving seCTer in the SCCOG's work on COVID recovery. She updated the SCCOG about seCTer's current activities including working with EDA on 13 projects; work with New London on its Foreign Trade Zone; and CARES Act funding available for lending.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District – no report.

H. SEAT

Mr. Carroll reported that ridership was up 2% in December.

I. SCCOG Regional Water Committee – No report.

J. Regional Emergency Planning Team

Mr. Sparkman reported that four towns still owe the FY 2020 MOAs and Resolutions, noting that none of the towns are from the SCCOG region. The Executive Director stated that he would contact DEMHS Region 4 Coordinator Mike Caplet about handing these off to him, as no SCCOG MOAs are missing, and he has done all he can to collect the remaining MOAs.

K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

Ms. Monahan reported on the RHSCC work on COVID recovery, and that members were on establishing a process for non-profit board recruitment and development.

L. SE CT Cultural Coalition

Ms. Bury reported the Coalition was getting ready to get out its economic impact survey.

9. Executive Director's Report:

The Executive Director said he had no additional report.

10. Old Business: – None.

11. New Business: – None.

12. Next Meeting:

The Chairman stated that a COVID-19 response call will be held in two weeks on February 3rd, and that the next regularly scheduled meeting would be held on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the next regular meeting will be on February 17th.

13. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:28a.m. (Urgo, Grant). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Chesebrough, Secretary