

MINUTES OF 3/17/21 MEETING OF THE  
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
HELD VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Mark Nickerson, East Lyme; Charles Grant, Franklin; 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; Kevin Lyden, Salem; Cheryl Blanchard, Sprague; Jeff Callahan, Borough of Stonington; Danielle Chesebrough, Town of Stonington; Council Alternates: John Burt, Town of Groton; John Salomone, Norwich; Jim Rivers, Windham. Tribal Liaison: None. Military Liaison: Captain Todd Moore, U.S. Naval SUBASE; RADM William Kelly, USCGA. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan, Justin LaFountain, Wendy Leclair. Other: Deborah Monahan, TVCCA; Mike Carroll, Al Fritzsche, SEAT; Grayson Wright, CTDOT; Erik Shortell, FHWA; Brianna DeVivo, Senator Murphy's office; Ayanti Grant, Congressman Courtney's office; State Representative Doug Dubitsky; Mark Oefinger, seCTer; Wendy Bury, SE CT Cultural Coalition; Catherine Young, CAA; Patrick McCormack, Uncas Health District; Donna Hamzi, Randy Collins, CCM; Teresa Jackman, T.J. Magnoli, Eversource; Tony Sheridan, Eastern CT Chamber of Commerce; Zell Steever; Roger Kuhns, Frank Maletz, CT Climate Lobby; Deb Denfeld; Alan Poirier; Dominick Celtruda.

1. Call to Order: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3. Act on Minutes of 2/17/21:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 2/17/21 (Sparkman, Grant). So voted unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report:

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

5. Communications: The Executive Director noted the letter to OPM Secretary McCaw regarding the potential for regionalization in southeastern Connecticut and the testimony provided by SCCOG Chairman Allyn on the internet gaming bill.

6. Public Comment:

Ms. Jackman introduced T.J. Magnoli and announced two meetings that Eversource would be holding.

Representative Dubitsky informed the SCCOG about Raised Bill No. 1024 proposed by Desegregate CT.

Mr. Cwikla thanked Representative Dubitsky, and said he was concerned that RB 1024 could result in a loss of local autonomy.

7. Guest Speakers:

A) Dr. Roger Kuhns, CT Climate Lobby

Dr. Kuhns addressed the SCCOG on climate change and the need to address this global issue immediately. At the end of his presentation, he asked the SCCOG to consider a climate change resolution which he offered to draft and send to the SCCOG.

B) Donna Hamzy, CCM

Ms. Hamzy discussed the compromise language that CCM and Desegregate CT had agreed to and which is now included in RB 1024.

Representative Dubitsky raised several parts of this bill that he felt would negatively impact municipalities.

8. COVID-19 Response Discussion:

Mr. McCormack reported on the recent work of the Uncas Health District regarding vaccinations and other COVID-19 response actions.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports:

A. Executive Committee

1) DEMHS Region 4 Regional Recovery Steering Committee – Update

The Executive Director said he had reported to the Executive Committee on the recent meetings of the Regional Recovery Steering Committee and the three working groups. He said that State funding for COG's work on COVID recovery has still not been identified.

2) JLUS Parking Management Plan - Update

The Deputy Director reported that the Project Steering Committee was meeting with the consultant tomorrow.

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### 3) CMAQ Application Review

The Executive Director said that the Executive Committee had reviewed and recommended to CTDOT the Windham Regional Transit District's application for CMAQ funding to expand service, the only application received by the SCCOG.

MOTION: To submit to CTDOT the application by the WRTD as SCCOG's priority candidate for CMAQ funding (Urigo, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

### 4) FY 2021 STIP/TIP Amendments

The Chair said this item will be taken up under Agenda Item 11 A., New Business.

### 5) Other

The Executive Director stated that staff was scheduling a meeting with CTDOT to meet with SCCOG members to discuss the Niantic Rail Station study and SLE improvements.

B. Legislative Committee/Legislative Agenda Discussion - No report.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives - No report.

D. Military Command Representatives

Captain Moore referenced an ADC survey that he had asked SCCOG staff to send to all SCCOG members.

E. Congressional Office Report

Ms. Grant from Congressman Courtney's office and Ms. DeVivo from Senator Murphy's office discussed the American Rescue Plan Act.

F. seCTer

Mr. Oefinger reported on seCTer activities.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District

Mr. Sheridan urged towns to submit to the Tourism District programs and events they would like to see posted.

H. SEAT

Mr. Carroll reported that that ridership was significantly down in February, about 65% less than that month last year.

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- I. SCCOG Regional Water Committee – No report.
- J. Regional Emergency Planning Team – No report.
- K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council – No report.
- L. SE CT Cultural Coalition

Ms. Bury reported on recent activities by the Cultural Coalition.

10. Executive Director's Report:

The Executive Director said he had no additional report.

11. Old Business: – None.

12. New Business:

A. FY 2021 STIP/TIP Amendments

- STPA, 0103-0278, West Town Street, Norwich, Replace Guiderails on SR 642 EB, PD, 2021, \$325,000, New Project
- STPA, 0103-0278, West Town Street, Norwich, Replace Guiderails on SR 642 EB, FD, 2022, \$190,000, New Project
- STPA, 0103-0278, West Town Street, Norwich, Replace Guiderails on SR 642 EB, ROW, 2022, \$50,000, New Project
- STPA, 0103-0278, West Town Street, Norwich, Replace Guiderails on SR 642 EB, CON, 2024, \$1,000,000, New Project
- STPA, 0172-0501, Various, District 2, Install Traffic Control Signals in Various Locations, PD, 2021, \$525,000, New Project
- STPA, 0172-0501, Various, District 2, Install Traffic Control Signals in Various Locations, FD, 2022, \$554,000, New Project
- STPA, 0172-0501, Various, District 2, Install Traffic Control Signals in Various Locations, RW, 2022, \$150,000, New Project

MOTION: To approve the FY 2021 STIP/TIP Amendments (Sparkman, Burt). So voted unanimously.

13. Next Meeting:

The Chairman stated that a COVID-19 response call will be held in two weeks on March 31st, and that the next regularly scheduled meeting would be held on April 21st.

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14. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m. (Sparkman, Nickerson). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Chesebrough, Secretary

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