

MINUTES OF THE 13 JULY 2021
SCCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Via ZOOM

Present: Fred Allyn, III, Keith Hedrick, Mark Nickerson, Danielle Chesebrough, Mike Urgo
Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan

Chairman Allyn opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

1. Proposed Voluntary SCCOG Assessment Using ARPA Funds

The Executive Director summarized his memorandum to the Executive Committee on this subject. He said this would be a voluntary assessment where SCCOG member municipalities would allocate 0.25% of their County Allocation of ARPA funding to support a Recovery Coordinator position at the SCCOG. He said a similar approach is being contemplated by other COGs in the state.

MOTION: That the SCCOG endorse the proposed voluntary assessment of all SCCOG member municipalities using 1% of their County Allocation of ARPA funding over a four-year period (0.25% per year) to support the creation of a Recover Coordinator position at the SCCOG Urgo, Hedrick). So voted unanimously.

2. Section 5310 Grant Funds Solicitation

The Executive Director reminded that an email had been sent to all municipal and non-profit contacts concerning the August 3rd deadline for applications. The Executive Committee asked that this solicitation be sent to all SCCOG CEOs as well.

3. Planner II Hiring Update

The Executive Director briefed the Executive Committee regarding this opening. He said that an offer has been made to an applicant and that he hoped to hear back from that applicant within a day or two. He said that the applicant resides out of state, and he asked the Executive Committee's approval for offering moving expense reimbursement should that candidate accept the offer. The Executive Committee agreed to providing the Executive Director with this leeway and discretion in determining the amount.

4. Transportation Planning/Engineering Consultant Update

The Executive Director reported on the solicitation for transportation engineering services using FY 2019 PL Carryover. He said that CTDOT has approved of the legal notice and RFQ that will be used in this solicitation.

5. Regional Code Enforcement Positon Update/Discussion

The Executive Director stated that Preston and Ledyard have renewed their agreements for Building Official services with the SCCOG, and that the SCCOG renewed its agreement with Mr. Tom Weber to provide these services to those two towns. He said other towns have recently inquired about the SCCOG providing them with Building Official and other code enforcement services. The arrangement that SCCOG currently has with Mr. Weber is to pay him an hourly rate of \$40, and to pass this cost on to Preston and Ledyard, with no charge for the SCCOG's BF& since Mr. Weber is not a full-time employee with benefits. If the SCCOG were to take on other towns needing code enforcement, and if Mr. Weber or someone else were to become full-time employees, the rate that the SCCOG would have to charge the towns would include the direct hourly salary rate and the audited BF&O rate which is currently 104.031%. He said this might make the code enforcement service unaffordable by some of SCCOG's smaller municipalities. Discussion took place. Chairman Allyn said he favored the SCCOG establishing a regional pool of code enforcement officials, but if these officials were employed by the SCCOG, the contracting town would have to pay for their full cost as a matter of fairness. The Executive Director agreed to research this issue further, and to prepare a memorandum to the Executive Committee which presents alternatives for such a program.

6. Draft Resolution No. 21-6 re: Grant Application by Cultural Coalition

The Executive Director explained the purpose of the proposed resolution, which would declare the Cultural Coalition to the SCCOG's Local Arts Agency, allowing it to make application the National Endowment of the Arts for a grant.

MOTION: That the SCCOG approve of Resolution No. 21-6, allowing the Cultural Coalition to make application to the National Endowment for the Arts for a grant (Nickerson, Urgo). So voted unanimously.

7. SCCOG Endorsement of New London LOTCIP Project – Williams/Broad Street Roundabout

MOTION: That the SCCOG endorse the application by New London for LOTCIP funding for the Williams Street at Broad Street Roundabout in the amount of \$3,094,475 Hedrick, Chesebrough). So voted unanimously.

8. FY 2021 TIP/STIP Amendments

None received.

9. Resumption of In-Person SCCOG Meetings

The Executive Director discussed the steps taken to prepare for what will be the SCCOG's first in-person meeting in over a year when the SCCOG holds its July 21st SCCOG board meeting. This meeting will be hybrid allowing interested persons to attend via Zoom if they choose to. Discussion took place regarding the holding of future committee meetings, such as the Executive Committee meetings, via Zoom. Members of the Executive Committee said they favored that approach.

10. Other

The Executive Director said that Transportation Program Manager Kate Rattan would be making a presentation tonight to the North Stonington Board of Selectmen on a bike-ped facility planning study for the Route 2 corridor in that town. He commended Ms. Rattan's work in managing and the consultant's work in preparing this study.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

James S. Butler, Executive Director