

MINUTES OF 11/17/21 MEETING OF THE  
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:

Glenn Pianka, Bozrah; Mark Nickerson, East Lyme; Charles Grant, Franklin; Dana Bennett, Griswold; Keith Hedrick, City of Groton; Timothy Sharkey, Borough of Jewett City; Fred Allyn, III, Ledyard; Thomas Sparkman, Lisbon; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Michael Passero, New London; Robert Carlson, North Stonington; Ed Chmielewski, Salem; 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. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan, Wendy Leclair, Jenna Albers. Tribal Liaison: Robert Hayward, MPTN. Military Liaison: LCDR Samuel Andriessen, USCGA. Other: Mike Carroll, Cherise Simpson, Thailise Clark, Al Fritzche, SEAT; Deborah Monahan, TVCCA; Mariam Elahi, Community Foundation of Eastern CT; Jennifer Pacacha, CTDOT; Erik Shortell, FHWA; Mark Oefinger, Paul Whitescarver, seCTer; Wendy Bury, SE CT Cultural Coalition; Patrick McCormack, Uncas Health District; Ayanti Grant, Congressman Courtney's Office; Ellen Graham, Senator Blumenthal's office; Catherine Young, CAA; Teresa Jackman, Eversource; Representative Doug Dubitsky; Jim Bellano, Eastern CT Tourism District; Dominick Celtruda; one reporter.

1. Call to Order: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.

The Chairman introduced the new SCCOG members who were present. He then called for a moment of silence in honor of former SCCOG Chairman and Waterford First Selectman Dan Steward.

3. Act on Minutes of 10/20/21:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 10/20/21 (Sparkman, Hedrick). So voted unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report:

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

5. Communications: None.

6. Public Comment:

Ms. Jackman said that Eversource continues to work with customers who hardship cases.

7. Committee and Liaison Reports:

A. Executive Committee

1) SCCOG CEO Support Program

The Executive Director stated that the idea for such a program was suggested by former North Stonington First Selectman Mike Urgo. He said he and he Deputy Director discussed this and that he drafted a memo recommending a number of components for such a program which he presented to the Executive Committee. He then outlined the program components and said the Executive Committee recommends the SCCOG adopt this program.

Mr. Urgo expressed his support, and said he was excited the SCCOG was considering this.

MOTION: To approve of the creation of a SCCOG CEO Support Program (Nickerson, Burt). So voted unanimously.

2) Resolution No. 21-7, Resolution for Endorsement of Targets for Safety Performance Measures Established by CTDOT

SCCOG Transportation Program Manager Kate Rattan gave a Power Point presentation explaining the targets for safety and the current safety conditions on the region's roads.

MOTION: To adopt Resolution No. 21-7, Resolution for Endorsement of Targets for Safety Performance Measures Established by CTDOT (Sparkman, Grant). So voted unanimously.

3) SCCOG Policy for Provision of Regional Code Enforcement Services

The Executive Director said he had discussed with the Executive Committee several options for charging for Regional Code Enforcement services. He said that if the SCCOG were to do so consistent with how it charges for Planner services, using the direct hourly rate plus the full BF&O rate, it would be unaffordable for some small towns interested in this program. There are currently 2 to 3 towns requesting this service of the SCCOG, but the cost of the person's direct hourly rate plus the full BF&O which is currently 104% makes this service unaffordable to them. He recommended to the Executive Committee only charging the Fringe portion, which equals about 49% of the BF&O for the first year of the program, as a means to get this program up and running. The Executive Committee agrees with this suggestion and has recommended this policy to the full SCCOG.

MOTION: The SCCOG agrees that for the first year (through June 30, 2023) of the Regional Code Enforcement program, participating municipalities will be charged the

direct hourly rate of the assigned staff person and for the only the fringe portion of the BF&O rate, in order to allow this program to be established and evaluated for its effectiveness by the towns receiving the service (Grant, Pianka). So voted unanimously.

#### 4) Update on SCCOG Municipal Dedication of ARPA Funds

The Executive Director noted that SCCOG towns are all on different schedules in terms of seeking the local approval their financial procedures require to approve the dedication of ARPA funds to the SCCOG. He said that he and the Deputy Director have met with Towns who have wanted a detailed explanation of the SCCOG's request for a voluntary assessment, and are willing to meet with anyone else on this issue. He said that 5 SCCOG member municipalities have sent in their first-year voluntary assessment, representing 0.25% of their County allocation of ARPA funding.

#### 5) Other

The Executive Director reported that the Executive Committee has stood up the Nominating Committee which will be chaired by Mr. Sparkman, who will be joined by Mr. McDaniel and Mr. Passero.

The Executive Director said that the Executive Committee has decided to hold the Annual Meeting, scheduled for December 15<sup>th</sup>, in person at Flanders Fish Market and Restaurant to allow for a holiday breakfast. The meeting to follow will be via Zoom for non-SCCOG members wishing to attend the meeting.

#### B. Legislative Committee

No report.

#### C. Tribal Liaison Representatives

Mr. Hayward reported on the recent Tribal election, and said those elected will take office in January. He reminded the SCCOG that the MPTN has sent out invitations to its holiday celebration on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### D. Military Command Representatives

LCDR Andriessen reported on activities at the USCGA including COVID-19 status.

#### E. Congressional Office Report

Ms. Grant and Ms. Graham reported on the work of their respective offices.

F. seCTer

Mr. Whitescarver reported on seCTer activities.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District

Mr. Bellano reported that the ECTD just signed their contract with the State; had launched a regional marketing partnership; and that they were contemplating a name change. The SCCOG Executive Director reminded that all SCCOG member municipalities have a seat on the ECTD board; Mr. Bellano stated he would contact the new CEOs to advise them who their representative was.

H. SEAT

Mr. Carroll reported on ridership, the New London micro-transit project, and other activities at SEAT.

I. SCCOG Regional Water Committee

No report.

J. Regional Emergency Planning Team

Mr. Sparkman reminded that the new FY MOAs have been distributed to all DEMHS Region 4 towns and are due back to the SCCOG by December 15th.

K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

Ms. Monahan said the RHSCC has not met recently but that members remained busy on COVID-19 response activities, and reported on TVCCA activities.

L. SE CT Cultural Coalition

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

8. Executive Director's Report:

The Executive Director reported that there was still no word from the State as to how they plan to fund three COGs, including the SCCOG, who have been deemed ineligible to receive an EDA grant that the other six COGs are scheduled to receive to perform COVID recovery work; referenced the LOTCIP update in his written report; and stated that Deputy Director Kennedy had drafted a template form for reporting on ARPA funding that SCCOG municipalities could provide to their sub-grant recipients.

9. Old Business:

A. COVID-19 Response Discussion

Mr. McCormack reported on testing, vaccine booster shots, and the incidence of COVID-19 cases in the region.

10. New Business:

A. FY 2021 STIP/TIP Amendments

- NHPP, 0170-5026, US 6/1-384, Statewide, Replace Highway Signs & Supports, CON, 2023, \$12,850,000, New Project

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

11. Next Meeting:

The Chairman stated that the next regularly scheduled meeting would be held on December 15th.

12. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:55 a.m. (Sparkman, Grant). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Chesebrough, Secretary