

MINUTES OF 4/20/22 MEETING OF THE  
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
AT SCCOG OFFICE NORWICH, CT AND VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:

In Person:

Glenn Pianka, Bozrah; Robert Carlson, North Stonington; Danielle Chesebrough, Town of Stonington. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy. Military Liaison: Steve Sadlowski, SUBASE.

Virtually:

Kevin Seery, East Lyme; Charles Grant, Franklin; Dana Bennett, Griswold; Kevin Cwikla, Lebanon; Thomas Sparkman, Lisbon; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Michael Passero, New London; Sandra Allyn-Gauthier, Preston; Ed Chmielewski, Salem; Jeff Callahan, Borough of Stonington; Danielle Chesebrough, Town of Stonington; Rob Brule, Waterford; Thomas DeVivo Windham. Council Alternates: John Burt, Town of Groton. Staff: Kate Rattan, Wendy Leclair. Tribal Liaison: None present. Military Liaison: Captain Ken Curtin, SUBASE. Other: Mike Carroll, Thailisa Clark, SEAT; Deborah Monahan, TVCCA; Jennifer Pacacha, CTDOT; Mark Oefinger, Paul Whitescarver, seCTer; Steve Mansfield, LLHD; Ellen Graham, Senator Blumenthal's office; Brianna DeVivo, Senator Murphy's office; Ayanti Grant, Congressman Courtney's office; Carey Redd, New London Parking; Teresa Jackman, T.J. Magnoli, Eversource; Jim Bellano, Eastern CT Tourism District; Maryam Elahi, Carl Asikainen, Community Foundation of ECT; David Murphy, Mary Buchanan, CIRCA; Ed Hoffman; Larry Roberts; one reporter.

1. Call to Order: In the absence of the Chairman, Vice Chairman Chesebrough called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3. Pledge of Allegiance: The Vice Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Act on Minutes of 3/16/22:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 3/16/22 (Pianka, Carlson). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

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

6. Communications: The Executive Director noted there three letters of support for grant applications in the Communications section of the agenda packet, and that at least two additional had been written since the agenda packet was emailed.

7. Public Hearing: Ozone and PM 2.5 Air Quality Conformity Determination

The Executive Director explained the purpose of the hearing and this document, and stated that the public comment period has been open since March 2<sup>nd</sup>, with today being the last day to submit comments. The Vice Chairman asked for comments and there were none. She then declared the public hearing closed.

8. Public Comment:

Ms. Jackman said that Eversource had appointed a new Director of Community Relations.

9. Guest Speaker:

A. David Murphy, CIRCA: Mr. Murphy provided a presentation on Resilient Connecticut 2.0. He said he would email the Executive Director a request to all SCCOG municipalities to appoint their list of contacts for this study effort.

B. Ed Hoffman, Hillandale Farms: Mr. Hoffman provided a presentation and answered questions regarding Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.

10. Committee and Liaison Reports:

A. Executive Committee

1) Update on Hiring of Regional Zoning Official

The Executive Director reported that Mr. John Herring, most recently ZEO in Portland, CT, has begun work as ZEO in Bozrah and Ledyard.

2) Update on Funding for Regional Recovery Coordinator

The Executive Director said that eleven municipalities have now sent in their voluntary assessment payment providing the SCCOG with approximately \$65,000 to fund the Regional Recovery Coordinator position.

3) Update on Hiring of Planner

The Executive Director said that Norwich native Nicole Haggerty, currently a Planner in Round Rock, Texas, has accepted the SCCOG's offer of employment as Planner II. Ms. Haggerty has a Bachelor degree in Historic Preservation from Roger Williams University and a Masters in Planning from the University of Texas. She will begin work at the SCCOG on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

4) Route 32 and Route 161 Corridor Study Updates

The Executive Director said that that advisory committees for both studies have been formed and have begun to meet.

5) FY 2021 STIP/TIP Amendments

The Executive Director noted these would be taken up under Item 13. A., New Business.

6) Proposed UPWP Amendment

The Executive stated that he has discussed with CTDOT a proposed amendment to the SCCOG's UPWP that would include his new position as Senior Advisor after he retires on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The position was not contemplated when the UPWP was drafted last spring.

MOTION: To approve the proposed amendment to the SCCOG FY 2022-2023 UPWP, reflecting the creation of the Senior Advisor position beginning July 1, 2022 (Pianka, Carlson). So voted unanimously.

7) Resolution No. 22-2, On Conformity with the Clean Air Act Ozone

The Executive Director explained the SCCOG annually adopts such a resolution, after CTDOT conducts an air quality conformity analysis of the region's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and TIP as required by the Federal Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA). This resolution would approve of the document and process which was the subject of the public hearing earlier in the meeting.

MOTION: To approve Resolution No. 22-2, On Conformity with the Clean Air Act Ozone (Sparkman, Cwikla). So voted unanimously.

B. Legislative Committee

No report.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives

No report.

D. Military Command Representatives

Captain Curtin said that the SUBASE was operating at Health Condition Alpha; that during the next two weeks the SUBASE would be conducting its annual hurricane preparedness drill; and reported on an Intergovernmental Service Agreement (IGSA) signing event held at the SUBASE last week.

E. Congressional Office Report

Ms. Grant from Congressman Courtney's office, and Ms. Graham from Senator Blumenthal's office, and Ms. DeVivo from Senator Murphy's office reported on the activities of their office related to Congressionally directed spending.

F. seCTer

Mr. Whitescarver said that seCTer will attend a finalist conference in June for their Phase 2 BBBRC grant application; reported on seCTer grant and loan programs; and stated that seCTer would begin work on updating the CEDS this year. has been submitted and that it could result in a \$60M investment in grant funds coming to the region.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District

Mr. Bellano offered to bring the Tourism District's marketing firm to the SCCOG to make a presentation; reported on the process for renaming the district as two sub-districts.

H. SEAT

Mr. Carroll reported that March fixed route service ridership was up 20% from February; New London's Smart Ride ridership is up 15% for the same period; all service will remain fare free per the Governor's directive from April 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30th; and he briefly mentioned the federal court in Florida overturn of the CDC's federal mask mandate on transit and said the SEAT Board would probably discuss that issue at their meeting later this morning.

I. SCCOG Regional Water Committee

No report.

J. Regional Emergency Planning Team

No report.

K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

Ms. Monahan said that the RHSCC would be meeting this Friday; she also reported on the difficulty in hiring early childhood staff and said that her agency still had energy assistance funds available.

L. SE CT Cultural Coalition

No report

11. Executive Director's Report:

The Executive Director reported on the staff's application for \$200,000 in Community Project Funding from Congressman Courtney's office to repair the SCCOG office driveway and parking lot, and thanked the CEOs who had provided letters of support on short notice. He said that with sadness he was informing the SCCOG that staff Planner Carly Hozschuh had resigned effective the end of the week to relocate to Portland, Oregon where her husband has taken a new job; he said that Carly will be missed.

12. Old Business:

A. COVID-19 Response Discussion

No report.

13. New Business:

A. FY 2021 STIP/TIP Amendments

- 5339P, 0400-XXX, Various, Statewide Bus Replacement FY 19, 20, 21, ACQ, 2022, \$30,000,000, New Project
- STPA, 0058-0338, CT 215, Groton, Replace Culvert at Anderson Marsh and Beebe Cove, RW, 2022, \$50,000, New Project
- STPA, 0058-0338, CT 215, Groton, Replace Culvert at Anderson Marsh and Beebe Cove, FD, 2022, \$200,000, New Project
- STPA, 0058-0338, CT 215, Groton, Groton, Replace Culvert at Anderson Marsh and Beebe Cove, CN, 2024, \$1,780,000, New Project
- CMAQ, 0170-3626, Various, Statewide, Statewide TDM (Greater CT Moderate), OTH, 2022, \$1,576,000, New Project

MOTION: To approve of the FY 2021 STIP/TIP amendments (Grant, DeVivo). So voted unanimously.

14. Next Meeting:

The Vice Chairman stated that the next regularly scheduled meeting would be held on May 25th, and the Executive Director explained this was to avoid the USCGA graduation on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

15. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m. (Pianka, Carlson). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Blanchard, Secretary