

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, Connecticut 06360

(860) 889-2324/Fax: (860) 889-1222/Email: office@seccog.org

Minutes of the January 18, 2023 Meeting of the Southeastern CT Council of Governments

Held at SCCOG, 5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, CT

PRESENT:

Bozrah	Glenn Pianka	Montville	Ron McDaniel
Colchester	-	New London	Michael Passero
East Lyme	Kevin Seery	Norwich	-
Franklin	Charles Grant	North Stonington	Bob Carlson
Griswold	Dana Bennett	Preston	Sandra Allyn-Gauthier
Jewett City	Tim Sharkey	Salem	Ed Chmielewski
City of Groton	Keith Hedrick	Sprague	Cheryl Blanchard
Town of Groton	-	Town of Stonington	Danielle Chesebrough
Lebanon	-	Stonington Borough	Jeff Callahan
Ledyard	Fred Allyn, III	Waterford	Rob Brule
Lisbon	-	Windham	-
Military Liaisons:	US Coast Guard Academy: LCDR Andriessen, LCDR Craig Johnson New London SUBASE: CAPT Curtin, Steve Sadlowski		
Tribal Affiliates:	Mohegan Tribe: - Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation: Bob Hayward		

SCCOG staff: Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan, Jessica Cobb, Sam Alexander. SEAT: Mike Carroll, Thailisa Clark, Cherise Simpson. seCTer: Paul Whitescarver, Joe Violette. CT DOT: Jennifer Pacacha. Office of Sen. Blumenthal: Ellen Graham. Office of Rep. Courtney: Noah Carver. Uncas Health District: Patrick McCormack. TVCCA: Deb Monahan. Carey Redd, Dave Murphy, Mary Buchanan.

1. Call to Order: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. The Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3. Act on Minutes of September 21, 2022 Meeting:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 12/21/2022 (McDaniel, Grant). Motion passed unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report:

MOTION: To approve the Treasurer’s Report (McDaniel, Grant). Motion passed unanimously.

5. Communications: No communications.
6. Public Comment: Deb Monahan reminded the Board to refer residents to TVCCA for assistance with heating costs—both LIHEAP and Operation FUEL have available funds.
7. Guest Speaker: Dave Murphy, CIRCA/Resilient Land and Water

Mr. Murphy presented the work done to date on Resilient CT, which is a statewide initiative to building a pipeline of resiliency projects for funding. The background research is complete, CIRCA staff will work with SCCOG staff in the coming weeks to develop criteria for a project list and the project list.

A draft of the Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation has been prepared and is available for review. It identifies 350 actions, with between 10 and 30 in each municipality. There is lots of funding available from multiple sources for implementation. Towns will be asked to pass resolutions in April/May endorsing the Plan; a draft of the resolution has been provided to municipal CEOs for their advance review. The SCCOG does not have to formally endorse the plan. Mr. Murphy noted that funding is available even to write applications for other grants, and that many non-profits would be eager to administer grant-funded projects on behalf of municipalities.

8. Committee and Liaison Reports

A) Executive Committee

- i) FY 2021 STIP/TIP Amendments: Ms. Kennedy noted that the Executive Committee recommended approval and that this item would be discussed under new business.
- ii) LOTCIP Project Funding:

- (1) Endorsement: Application for Norwich—New London Turnpike Sidewalks and Rehabilitation, \$2,849,200. New Project.

MOTION: To endorse Norwich’s proposed project for LOTCIP funding (Passero, Hedrick). Motion passed unanimously.

- (2) Re-Endorsement: New London—Williams St & Broad Street Roundabout. Ms. Kennedy stated that this project requires re-endorsement due to an increase in cost from \$3.2 million to \$4.1 million.

MOTION: To re-endorse the Williams & Broad Street LOTCIP project (Grant, Hedrick). Motion passed unanimously.

- B) Legislative Committee: Mr. Grant stated that he had received some responses to his email asking for examples of labor issues preventing shared services, and would be packaging that information and sharing with the region’s delegation shortly.

- C) Tribal Liaison Representatives: Mr. Hayward stated that construction had begun on Great Wolf Lodge.
- D) Military Command Representatives: Captain Curtin stated that the fuel cell is now operational and will enable the SUBASE to operate on “island” mode in case of a broader power outage. LCDR Andriessen introduced LCDR Craig Johnson, who will take over in the next few weeks as SCCOG’s USCGA liaison.
- E) Congressional Office Report: Ms. Graham stated that last year’s earmark projects have been announced and a new round should begin soon. Noah Carver, standing in for Ayanti Grant, stated that Rep. Courtney had signed on to a letter to President Biden regarding rent relief and had proposed three bills related to social security, health, and congressional conflicts of interest (financial).
- F) seCTer: Mr. Whitescarver stated that he had provided letters of support to several applicants for Community Investment Funds, and would like to see application materials to understand what made some applications successful and not others. He introduced Joe Violette, seCTer’s new Business Retention/Expansion Specialist. The CEDS will be ready for review in March and will have an online component.
- G) Eastern CT Tourism District: No report.
- H) SEAT: Ridership went up in December. Mr. Carroll was asked if the TIP amendment funding included upgrades to electrical infrastructure; he stated that it did and they were looking into potentially connecting their facility to NPU service.
- I) Regional Water Committee: No report.
- J) Regional Emergency Planning Team: No report.
- K) Regional Human Services Coordinating Council: Deb Monahan stated that the RHSCC would meet this Friday 1/20.
- L) SE CT Cultural Coalition: No report.

9. Executive Director’s Report

Ms. Kennedy highlighted several items in the written report: Jennifer Lindo will begin work January 30th as SCCOG’s regional ZEO. She is a certified CZET and will obtain CZEO certification this year. REPT: DEMHS is six months behind in processing reimbursements, and Ms. Kennedy will ask the REPT to freeze spending on grants expiring in 2024 and 2025 until reimbursement issues are addressed. The draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan will be ready for review and public comment in February. Ms. Kennedy mentioned she had issued several letters of support for grant applications and reminded the board to request letters in the future. Ms. Kennedy stated that SCCOG had nominated Alvin Kinsall as Defense Community Champion and would work with the City of New London on recognition.

10. Old Business: None.

11. New Business:

FY 2021 STIP/TIP Amendments

<u>Proj#</u>	<u>FA</u>	<u>AQCd</u>	<u>Rte/Sys</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Phase</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Tot\$(000)</u>	<u>Fed\$(000)</u>	<u>Sta\$(000)</u>	<u>Loc\$(000)</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>code for change</u>
0103-0281	STPNL	PD	VARIOUS	NORWICH	NORWICH MOBILITY STUDY	PL	2023	250	200	13	38	NEW PROJECT	05
0414-XXXX	5339D	X6	SEAT	Norwich	CTDOT/SEAT - Facility Modernization & Deployment of BEBs - FY22 Discretionary	ALL	2023	25,493	20,394	5,099	0	NEW PROJECT	05
0414-XXXX	5307C	X6	SEAT	NORWICH	SEAT - PURCHASE OF 5 SMALL BUSES FY22	ACQ	2023	625	500	125	0	NEW PROJECT	05

Ms. Kennedy described the three projects to be funded. The first item is a corridor study that SCCOG is administering. Mr. Carroll noted that SEAT is still awaiting confirmation that the State will fund the operations associated with the new buses being funded.

Motion: To approve the proposed TIP Amendments (McDaniel, Grant). Motion passed unanimously.

12. Next Meeting:

The Chairman stated that the next meeting would be February 15, 2023.

13. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn (McDaniel, Grant). The Chairman adjourned the meeting without exception at 9:34 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Kennedy, Executive Director, on behalf of Cheryl Blanchard, Secretary