

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Minutes of the March 15, 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	-	Salem	-
City of Groton	-	Sprague	Cheryl Blanchard
Town of Groton	-	Town of Stonington	-
Lebanon	Kevin Cwikla	Stonington Borough	-
Ledyard	Fred Allyn, III	Waterford	Rob Brule
Lisbon	-	Windham	-
Military Liaisons:	US Coast Guard Academy: LCDR Craig Johnson New London SUBASE: Steve Sadlowski		
Tribal Affiliates:	Mohegan Tribe: - Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation: Rob Hayward		

SCCOG staff: Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan, Jessica Cobb. SEAT: Mike Carroll. seCTer: Paul Whitescarver. CT DOT: Jennifer Pacacha. Office of Rep. Courtney: Ayanti Grant. Office of Senator Murphy: Erin McBride. Uncas Health District: Patrick McCormack.

1. Call to Order: The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. The Vice Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3. Act on Minutes of February 15, 2023 Meeting:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 2/15/2023 (Grant, Cwikla). Motion passed unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report:

MOTION: To approve the Treasurer's Report (McDaniel, Grant). Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Kennedy noted that SCCOG had received payment from DEMHS reducing unpaid reimbursements from \$287,000 to \$188,000, and that she hoped that additional payments soon could mean resumption of spending from the REPT grant allocations.

5. Communications: None.

6. Public Comment: Dave Murphy of CIRCA distributed information regarding identified Resilience Opportunity Areas (ROARs) in southeastern Connecticut, and will follow up with municipalities regarding potential future work.

7. Guest Speaker: SCCOG Planner III Sam Alexander briefed the SCCOG on the process and results of the CIRCA-funded Stormwater Authority project, which reviewed the potential to shift the costs of stormwater management in four towns from general property tax revenues to a user fee-based stormwater authority. The project report by consultant CDM Smith is available, as is a SCCOG summary of the project.

8. SCCOG Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

The Vice Chair noted that this item will be taken up under item 9(iii).

9. Committee and Liaison Reports

A) Executive Committee

i) FY 2022 Annual Report and Audit: Ms. Kennedy noted that the annual report was waiting on information from the audit, which is now complete. The board must formally adopt an annual report each year.

MOTION: To approve the FY 22 Annual Report (Cwikla, Grant). So voted unanimously.

ii) FY 2021 STIP/TIP Amendments: Ms. Kennedy noted this item would be discussed under new business.

iii) Metropolitan Transportation Plan: Ms. Kennedy noted that the draft Plan had gone out for public comment and was revised based on two received comments. Ms. Rattan added that in addition to a formal endorsement of the Plan, the SCCOG needed to endorse the accompanying Air Quality Conformity Determination Plan.

MOTION: To endorse the MTP and Air Quality Conformity (Grant, McDaniel). So voted unanimously.

- B) Legislative Committee: Mr. Grant stated that he had submitted testimony on behalf of SCCOG the obligation to post legal notices in newspapers. He also noted a DEEP proposal and bill regarding solid waste practices. Discussion ensued regarding the increasing costs of solid waste management. Ms. Gauthier suggested a follow-up meeting devoted to this issue. Mr. McDaniel stated that he had submitted comments to DEEP regarding their proposal on behalf of SCRRA and would circulate that letter. Mr. Grant stated he would coordinate a follow-up ad hoc session on this issue with SCCOG members. Ms. Kennedy added that Mr. Grant had also submitted testimony re: ZEO certification, and that she would ask CAZEO for information regarding the changes that they had made to their certification process.
- C) Tribal Liaison Representatives: Mr. Hayward thanked SCCOG for its letter of support for Congressionally Directed Spending.
- D) Military Command Representatives: Steve Sadlowski noted that a new Executive Officer had assumed duties (Commander Brad Boyd) and that the base had recently conducted active shooter and chemical attack drills in coordination with neighboring municipalities. LCDR Johnson noted CGA's recent billet night.
- E) Congressional Office Report: Ms. Grant stated that applications for Congressionally Directed Spending were due to their office today. Ms. McBride stated that her office's deadline is 3/19.
- F) seCTer: Mr. Whitescarver stated that the CT Rise program is operational and that they plan to submit a CEDS to the SCCOG to adopt next month.
- G) Eastern CT Tourism District: No report.
- H) SEAT: Mr. Carroll stated that ridership continues to be high but that with the end of the fare-free policy as of April 1, SEAT expects a 20% drop in ridership.
- I) Regional Water Committee: No report.
- J) Regional Emergency Planning Team: No report.
- K) Regional Human Services Coordinating Council: Mr. McDaniel noted that there was no meeting in the past month.
- L) SE CT Cultural Coalition: No report.
- M) Health Districts: Patrick McCormack of Uncas Health District thanked the SCCOG for adding the Health Districts as a Liaison. He stated that Uncas, Ledge Light, and Chatham would coordinate to have a single attendee most months. Mr. McCormack stated that District staff are available for community health events and want to maintain connections in the community post-Covid that improve the District's effectiveness. They are tracking multiple legislative items, and noted that new public acts requiring additional District work can strain the finances and staff capacity of health districts. Uncas is participating in a Region 4 Disaster Training Day in Norwich in April. Uncas is also applying for overdose crisis funds along with Ledge Light Health District.

9. Executive Director’s Report

Ms. Kennedy highlighted several items in the written report: Doug Colter begins as Building Official serving three communities on 3/16. SCCOG Land Use Specialist Jennifer Lindo is working to update SCCOG’s white paper reviewing Short-Term Rental regulation options, in response to member requests. SCCOG staff are now providing interim planning services in Stonington and North Stonington to fill temporary vacancies there. Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Rattan attended a steering committee meeting on the Eastern Connecticut Commuter Rail study, and a municipal working group meeting will be held in April to which municipal CEOs will be attend. A briefing on this project will also be given at the SCCOG Executive Committee’s April meeting (tentative). SCCOG received USDOT feedback on its unsuccessful 2022 Safe Streets for All grant application, which was ranked “highly recommended,” and will restructure the application for an upcoming second round. Ms. Kennedy had fielded numerous requests for letters of support for grant applications in the last week, and asked for additional notice for any future requests. SCCOG Planner I Kyle Casiglio prepared an application for \$300,000 in FTA Areas of Persistent Poverty grant funding that would enable SCCOG and SEAT to carry out a new Comprehensive Operations Analysis that incorporates the potential for microtransit services; this application was submitted last week. SEAT would be the fiduciary and SCCOG would manage the project. Ms. Kennedy noted that speakers had tentatively been scheduled for the next two meetings (April- Tourism, May- Eversource).

10. Old Business: None.

11. New Business:

FY 2021 STIP/TIP Amendments

<u>Region</u>	<u>FACode</u>	<u>Proj#</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>
70	EVFP	0170-3682	X6		STATEWIDE	NEVI PROGRAM PHASE 1 ADMINISTRATION	PL	2023	1,000	800	200	0	NEW PROJECT
70	PRPL	0170-3684	X6		STATEWIDE	RESILIENCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN & VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT	PL	2023	750	600	150	0	NEW PROJECT
<u>Region</u>	<u>FACode</u>	<u>Proj#</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>
76	CMAQ	0170-3667	X6	VARIOUS	STATEWIDE	STATEWIDE TDM: GREATER CT MODERATE	OTH	2023	1,623	1,298	325	0	NEW PROJECT
<u>Region</u>	<u>FACode</u>	<u>Proj#</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>
10, 13	PRFP	0170-3685	X6		STATEWIDE	PUMP STATION RISK ASSESSMENT	PL	2023	276	221	55	0	NEW PROJECT
10, 13	PRPL	0170-3685	X6		STATEWIDE	PUMP STATION RISK ASSESSMENT	PL	2023	124	99	25	0	NEW PROJECT

Ms. Kennedy described the projects being proposed for funding, which include funds for CT DOT to administer work related to electric vehicles, resilience, and transportation demand management and to carry out assessments of pump stations, including one in Groton.

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

12. Next Meeting:

The Vice Chairman stated that the next meeting would be April 19, 2023.

13. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn (McDaniel, Grant). The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:21 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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