

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 May 24, 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	-	Norwich	-
Franklin	-	North Stonington	Bob Carlson
Griswold	Dana Bennett	Preston	Sandra Allyn-Gauthier
Jewett City	Tim Sharkey	Salem	Ed Chmielewski
City of Groton	-	Sprague	Cheryl Blanchard
Town of Groton	John Burt	Town of Stonington	Danielle Chesebrough
Lebanon	-	Stonington Borough	Michael Schefers
Ledyard	Fred Allyn, III	Waterford	Rob Brule
Lisbon	-	Windham	-
Military Liaisons:	US Coast Guard Academy: LCDR Craig Johnson New London SUBASE: -		
Tribal Affiliates:	Mohegan Tribe: - Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation: -		

SCCOG staff: Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan. seCTer: Paul Whitescarver, RT Brown. CT DOT: Jennifer Pacacha. Office of Rep. Courtney: Ayanti Grant. Uncas Health District: Patrick McCormack. TVCCA: Deb Monahan. SE CT Cultural Coalition: Deb Mathiasen. Eversource: Teresa Jackman.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Chesebrough called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. The Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chairman introduced Michael Schefers, new Borough Warden for Stonington Borough.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3. Act on Minutes of March 15, 2023 Meeting:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 4/19/2023 (McDaniel, Chmielewski). Motion passed unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report:

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

5. Communications: Ms. Kennedy noted that Lisa Kidder from the Office of the State Comptroller had requested that information be distributed regarding the MyCTSA savings program (handouts available).

6. Public Comment: Eversource: Ms. Jackman noted that utility shutoff moratoria will resume in October, and previous participants will automatically be enrolled. Households having trouble with payment should apply for hardship relief. A recording is available of the recent emergency management meeting. TVCCA: Deb Monahan noted that applications are still being accepted for energy assistance.

7. Committee and Liaison Reports

A) Executive Committee

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

ii) FY 2024 – FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP): Ms. Kennedy stated that the document established a two-year work plan for SCCOG's transportation planning funding, which will increase by \$200,000 per year over pre-IIJA amounts. The plan includes an additional staff person dedicated to transportation.

MOTION: To approve the UPWP (McDaniel, Blanchard). Motion passed unanimously.

iii) seCTer CEDS: Mr. Whitescarver summarized the CEDS and asked for SCCOG's approval of the document. The CEDS establishes the following priorities: support the workforce (including housing), build capacity, advance growth and sustainability. Mr. Whitescarver noted that completing the document opens opportunities for future grant funds.

MOTION: To approve the CEDS (Burt, Allyn). Motion passed unanimously.

B) Legislative Committee: Ms. Chesebrough stated that she was concerned about proposed cuts to Shoreline East and asked members to reach out to the Governor's Office and delegation regarding the cuts. Mayor Passero noted that cuts were being proposed in the Governor's budget at the same time a study is being conducted to expand the service.

C) Tribal Liaison Representatives: No report.

- D) Military Command Representatives: LCDR Johnson noted that CGA Superintendent RADM Kelly will be relieved by Admiral Johnston this Friday. New cadets will arrive June 26th.
- E) Congressional Office Report: Ms. Grant reported no progress on debt ceiling issue but that her office continues to be available as a resource.
- F) seCTer: Mr. Whitescarver noted that seCTer is involved with the Health Care Regional Partnership.
- G) Eastern CT Tourism District: No report.
- H) SEAT: The June meeting is cancelled.
- I) Regional Water Committee: No report.
- J) Regional Emergency Planning Team: Ms. Kennedy reminded the Board that Memorandums of Agreement are due to SCCOG by June 30th.
- K) Regional Human Services Coordinating Council: Ms. Monahan stated that SCCOG staff (Kyle Casiglio) had been making progress on refreshing membership and that State agencies were participating again after several years of non-participation.
- L) SE CT Cultural Coalition: Ms. Mathiasen spoke about Make Music Day (June 21) and stated that an announcement would be made in the next few weeks naming the new Executive Director.
- M) Health Districts: Mr. McCormack spoke about Connecticut's recent adoption of the Federal Food Code and how it is changing food service inspection processes. The districts are also working with special event planners. Inspections may take longer initially but will provide some benefit in terms of consistency and efficiency of corrective action review.
- N) Solid Waste Committee: Mayor Allyn announced the creation of a temporary committee to focus on solid waste issues and asked for volunteers representing different-sized communities. The Committee will begin meeting in August and meet every three weeks or so to complete a report by the end of the year. Topics will include DEEP's proposals, SCRRRA's composting pilot, etc. Members should reach out to Mayor Allyn if interested in participating.

8. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Kennedy highlighted several items in the written report: DEMHS is making progress on paying down reimbursement requests but balance is still \$300,000. Staff have reached out to towns regarding a proposed SS4A application for less than \$10 million in funding. Participating towns will have to provide a local match. Staff will be working on electric vehicle issues later this year in preparation for potential future grants. SECHA will be working with SCCOG staff to develop and present affordable housing training later this year qualifying towards the required Commissioner training by 12/31. SCCOG requested and has

been enrolled in UCONN TAB’s brownfield inventory program this summer and is working to confirm which towns will participate. SCCOG has submitted an application for Department of Defense resilience funds that will assist Groton Utilities with utility work affecting the SUBASE.

9. Old Business: None.

10. New Business:

A) FY 2021 STIP/TIP Amendments

<u>FACode</u>	<u>Proj#</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>Comme nts</u>
NHPP	0170-3640	I-95 & I-395	STATEWID E	SERVICE PLAZA MAINLINE SIGN AND SIGN SUPPORT REPLACEMENT	CON	FYI	3,750	3,750	0	0	NEW PROJECT

Ms. Kennedy described the project being proposed for funding.

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

B) Endorsement of CT Safety Performance Measures: Ms. Kennedy described the measures, which were submitted to FHWA in December.

Motion: To approve the proposed performance measures (McDaniel, Chmielewski). Motion passed unanimously.

11. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be June 21, 2023.

12. Adjournment:

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Kennedy, Executive Director, on behalf of Charlie Grant, Secretary